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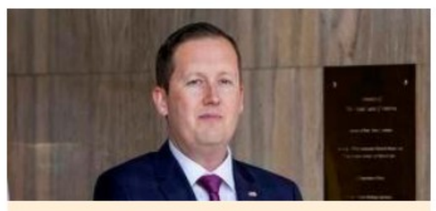

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NEARBY

HC tells State to scrap BMIC project

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ordered the State government to scrap the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, observing that only one kilometre of the proposed 111-km expressway had been built in over 25 years. » PAGE 3

'People will force govt. to reverse changes to Act'

KALABURAGI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that resistance by those affected by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act change it will force Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reverse it. » PAGE 6

PSLV-C62 strays from flight path, fails to launch satellite

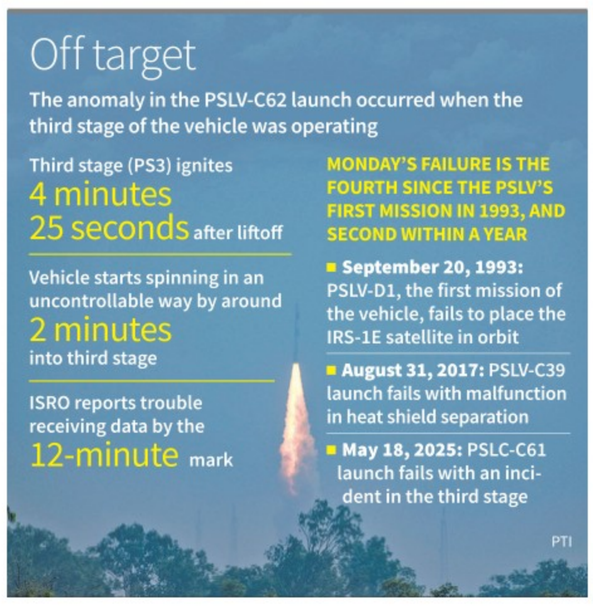
Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite and 15 co-passenger satellites failed to finish its intended trajectory on Monday after an anomaly was detected during the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle, resulting in the loss of the satellites and prompting a detailed analysis.

The PSLV-C62 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 10.18 a.m. on Monday. The launch of the vehicle, which has four stages, went as expected till the third stage, but showed "disturbance in the vehicle roll rates" close to the end of the third stage, ISRO chairman V. Narayanan said.

"The performance of the vehicle up to the end of the third stage was as expected. Close to the end of the third stage, we saw some disturbance in the vehicle roll rates, and subsequently, there is a deviation observed in the flight path. We are analysing the data, and we shall come back at the earliest," Mr. Narayanan said.

Monday's outcome is seen as a big setback for the space agency as the PSLV, its workhorse rocket, has suffered back-to-back failures now.



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Retail inflation at 3-month high of 1.33% in December

Increased figure still below RBI's lower comfort level of 2%; data show broad-based decline in price levels across sectors as reason for low figure; core inflation at 28-month high of 4.8%, says expert

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation quickened to a three-month high of 1.33% in December 2025, which is still significantly below the lower comfort level of 2% set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), official data released on Monday showed.

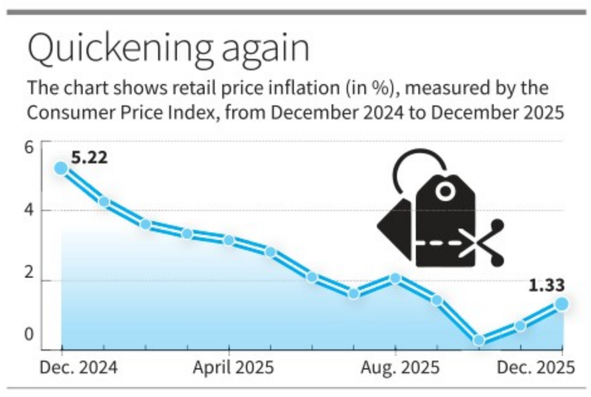
Data on the Consumer Price Index for December 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, show that the low levels of retail inflation are a result of a broad-based decline in price levels across sectors. The RBI targets an inflation rate of 4%, with a comfort band of 2% above and below that.

The food and beverages category saw a contraction of 1.85% in prices in December 2025, a moderation from the contraction of 2.8% seen in November. This is likely due to a high base effect as inflation in this category stood at 7.7% in December last year.

"However, inflation was high at over 5% for meat products, oils, and fruits and will continue to exert upward pressure in the coming months," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda said.

Inflation in the 'pan, tobacco, and intoxicants' category remained unchanged at 2.96% in December 2025 as compared to November. The clothing and footwear category saw inflation easing marginally to 1.44% in December 2025 from 1.49% in the previous month. Inflation in this category had been 2.7% in December 2024. The housing sector, too, saw inflation easing to 2.86% in December 2025 from 2.95% in the previous month. The fuel and light category saw inflation ease to 1.97% in December 2025, as compared to 2.3% in November.

"Core inflation (CPI excluding food and beverages, fuel and light, and petrol and diesel for vehicles) jumped to a 28-month high of 4.8% in December 2025 from 4.4% in November 2025," Aditi Nayar, chief economist and head, research & outreach at ICRA Limited said. "However, this was largely led by precious metals; core CPI excluding gold and silver remained unchanged at 2.4% between these months."



SC draws June 30 deadline for GBA polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday recorded that the civic polls in Bengaluru must be completed by June 30. The Bench stressed that no further extensions would be given for the conduct of the elections.

Bengaluru contributes 12.5% of the seats in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and over 60% of the State's revenue annually.

SEC undertaking

The Karnataka State Election Commission (SEC) undertook in court to publish the final voter list by March 16, 2026. It said the election process would commence from May 25, when schools and the teaching faculty were free after the board examinations.

The court allowed the State of Karnataka, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty and advocate Sanchit Garga, its request for time till February 20, 2026 to publish the final notifications of ward-wise reservation.

The State government recently published a draft of the ward wise reservation roster for 369 wards in the five city corporations.

Noting that the delay in publishing the draft notifications was because of "unavoidable administrative circumstances", an affidavit filed by the State in the apex court, however, reasoned that "since the SEC does not require reservation list of wards until the final publication of ward wise electoral roll, the delay in publishing ward wise reservation does not affect the electoral process as such... It is submitted that the State government is taking all necessary steps to publish the final notifications of ward reservation for all five city corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Area within the time limit".

Karnataka appeal

The case stemmed from an appeal filed by the State against a 2020 High Court judgment, directing the SEC to conduct elections for only 198 wards of the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) within six weeks.

The State had argued that the decision nullified the unanimous will of the State legislature, which amended the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act of 1976, to increase the number of wards in Bengaluru to 243.

The State had argued that the High Court decision severely handicapped efforts to "improve urban governance in one of the largest and most cosmopolitan cities in India".

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Festive stalks

Market bustle: Workers unload sugarcane ahead of the Sankranti festival at K.R. Market in Bengaluru on Monday.
J. ALLEN EGENUSE (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

India, Germany agree to shore up defence cooperation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Abhinay Deshpande
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

India and Germany will enhance defence trade with an eye on 'co-production and co-development,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, as the two sides signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation.

Welcoming German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India, Mr. Modi said India will launch a 'consultation mechanism' on increasing collaboration with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region.

In his remarks, Mr. Merz, who is on his first visit to Asia since assuming office in May 2025, said "rough winds" are blowing in world politics and that India and Germany should increase partnership to counter global trends of instability.

The list of 'outcomes' following the meeting between the two leaders also included several other MoUs and Joint Declarations of Intent covering areas like recruitment of skilled professionals by Germany, sports, and higher education.

"The growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade. We will also work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between our defence industries, which will open up new opportunities for co-development and co-production," Mr. Modi said following talks with Mr. Merz.

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KITE FESTIVAL
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Joint effort: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz flying a kite in Ahmedabad on Monday. PTI

Iran wants talks with U.S. after his threat to strike, says Trump

Associated Press
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump has said Tehran wants to negotiate with Washington after his threat to strike Iran over its crackdown on protesters. Activists said on Monday that at least 150 people died during the nationwide demonstrations.

Iran had no direct reaction to the comments, However, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Islamic Republic was "open to diplomacy". Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said a channel to the U.S. remained open, but talks needed to be "based on the acceptance of mutual interests and concerns, not a negotiation that is one-sided, unilateral and based on dictation."

Donald Trump

Mr. Araghchi, speaking to foreign diplomats in Tehran, insisted "the situation has come under total control". He also blamed Israel and the U.S. for the violence, without offering evidence.

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'FOUR-FRONT WAR'
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PTI

Patience, practice and power — Anushka's journey to the WPL

Behind a composed debut in the league that brought the 22-year-old batting star from Madhya Pradesh into the spotlight lies a story of long days, tough coaches and steady progress through the domestic circuit

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

If you look for 'Anushka Sharma plus cricket' on your search engines, you're going to have to scroll a fair amount till you find the one you're looking for. A few performances like this and that won't be an issue," Charles Dagnall quipped on commentary during the UP Warriorz-Gujarat Giants WPL fixture at the D.Y. Patil Stadium.

The 22-year-old's sublime stroke-play and confidence were on show in a handy 44-run knock off 30 deliveries on WPL debut.

Taking Beth Mooney's place in the middle alongside veteran Sophie Devine, Anushka broke free when she got down on one knee and smacked Asha Sobhana for four behind square. However, it was the link-up with skipper Ashleigh Gardner and their crucial 103-run stand that set up the Giants for their highest-ever WPL total of 207.

"To be honest, I was a little nervous but things got sorted when I played two to three balls," she told broadcasters during the mid-innings break.

Anushka used her crease and stepped back to allow herself time to send the ball to the fence. Her smack over Kranti Gaud's head for four, different from a similar strike from Devine early on, only in distance, was particularly eye-catching. Looking steadily ahead for a half century on debut, the strategic timeout broke momentum, with Anushka holing out to Harleen Deol off Deandra Dottin's bowling in the second over post resumption.

Making heads turn

The all-rounder's exploits come as no surprise given her recent run in the domestic circuit.

She struck a 58-ball 80 for Central Zone in the senior women's inter-zonal Trophy – she finished with 155 runs from five games – after which she amassed 207 runs in the senior women's T20 Trophy. Anushka was the second-highest run-scorer in the Madhya Pradesh Women's League: 93 in four matches for Bundelkhand Bulls, and also made her case for Royal Challengers Bengaluru and UP Warriorz in the pre-auction trials.

She becomes the latest export from Madhya Pradesh, a state with a history of producing astute cricketers like Sandhya Agarwal, Pooja Vastrakar, and, most recently, Vaishnavi Sharma.

"Cricket has always been good in MP, be it for the boys or girls," Anushka told *Sportstar* ahead of the season.

"But ever since Chandrakant Pandit took over, he has groomed players quite a bit. He's seen what the strength of every individual player is and has assigned roles accordingly. He examines how we can refine our strengths and what we need to develop. He prioritises team bonding activities. The boys and girls practice in a mixed group from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, across four to five sessions.

"We also had sessions on how to improve our communication skills and were trained in public speaking and sessions in the library. He looks at what overall qualities an individual cricketer should have and looks to tick all those boxes.

Pandit is also known for his no-compromise approach to discipline. Anushka agrees with a big grin on her face.

"Ever since he came, players have become very disciplined. Earlier, we used to singularly think about winning, but never about how to win. What kind of preparation do we need to get there? So this goal setting and execution is something we've improved on under him."

Gully to gallery

Much before she found herself in Pandit's care, cricket for Anushka was about playing with her brother Ayush. A big Sachin Tendulkar fan, he needed a bowler to practice his shots on, and there began her tryst with bowling, initially as a medium pacer.

"I liked playing cricket, but I didn't initially have much interest. When I was around five, my brother taught me to bowl pace so he could bat. I liked batting more, but the bats weren't of my size. You remember the wooden bats we wash clothes with? That fit me so I played with that before my father eventually got me a plastic bat and then a wooden one. I played proper cricket first at the U-16 level. I gave trials and got selected. I was the best all-rounder there. I then entered the Central Zone side and finished with the best all-round performance there, too. That helped me break into the U-19s."

And she hasn't looked back since.

Despite usually prioritising academic brilliance – Ayush graduated from IIT Bombay and works as a data scientist, as do the others in her joint family at home – her folks never pressured her to tread the same path.

She was allowed to own her choices, right from the sport she picked to her preferences within it.

"*Itni si shareer hai mera, 2-3 ball dalne mein kandhe mein dard hota tha* (I am quite thin, so bowling pace was a strain on my shoulders)," Anushka remembered as she explained her switch from medium pace to off-spin. But no such excuse works with the bat in an age where muscling the ball long is the mandate.

"When I was younger, I was thin and didn't have the power to get the ball past the rope. I was and always have been a good timer of the ball. Gradually, with the demands of the game changing, I have worked on my power game as well."

Sessions at the gym, starting with light weights, became a staple in Anushka's routine from the age of 15. But she didn't yet know how to complement that with proper nutrition. Her trainer, Shreyanshi Singh, then guided her through it.

Anushka, incidentally a huge Virat Kohli fan, watched his exploits on TV religiously. It only bolstered her drive to stay with the sport and make a name for herself in it.

Towards that end, the family considered a move to Indore, but nothing clicked. Their sights then turned to a Government facility in Shivpuri near Gwalior, the Shrimant Madhav Rao Scindia Cricket Academy, where renowned coach Arun Singh operated. His record of producing Ranji Trophy players and even a few accomplished women players made the move easy on Anushka and her family.

Arun has been a tough customer, too, much to Anushka's delight.

"In the last year, I've worked on my power-hitting a lot more. There is a huge gap between domestic and India level and the national side accommodates only 15 players. I wanted to be able to design my game accordingly. I focused on power-hitting, picking gaps and range-hitting. Over two sessions, I sometimes smacked 500-600 balls to get all this polished in Shivpuri under Arun sir."

Mumbai Indians players Sanskriti Gupta and Rahila Firdaus also train alongside her under Arun.

The grind

A few months ago, Anushka had just gotten done with a Senior Women's T20 Trophy fixture in Chandigarh when the auction began. The team had their eyes pasted on proceedings on the bus ride back to the hotel, which was a fairly long commute.

"I kept waiting for my name to pop up, but it never did. I felt a bit disappointed but made peace with it and put my phone away. But then, I couldn't resist and logged on again, and I saw my name come up. Never in my dreams did I expect interest from three teams and for me to get picked," she gushed.

Her family members were together back home. Her brother had just gotten married a few days prior. When the gavel came down on her acquisition, media persons flooded their residence. She still remembers her father's proud face as he spoke of her and showed off her cups and medals.

One can imagine her folks beaming with pride as she staked her claim to stardom with a calm and cool performance alongside Gardner, a player she was most excited to spend time around when she learned of her selection to the side.

"She is such a talent. To spend time out in the middle...she keeps it simple and for a young player, to be brave enough to do that, amazing to be at the other end," Gardner said in praise of the youngster.

Coach Michael Klinger went a step further in the post-match chat with reporters.

"Anushka, I don't want to make a big statement but she's going to be playing for India. She's got time in the crease, she's timing the ball beautifully. She can hit both through the field and over the field. She bowls really well too, but didn't get a look in today. She's really good in the field, which is why three teams bid for her in the auction. We thought she'd go under the radar and identified her. People in India obviously know what a high-quality player she is. From what I've seen so far in a very short time, she's got a long career ahead of her."

From rethinking her path in cricket after a lean domestic season a few years ago to hogging the headlines in the team studded with international biggies, Anushka has come a long way.

The exciting thing, for her and for Indian cricket, is that she's just getting started. And when you search 'Anushka Sharma plus cricket' the next time, you wouldn't need to scroll down too much to find her.

THE GIST

- Anushka had a great domestic season, striking a 58-ball 80 for Central Zone in the senior women's inter-zonal Trophy — finishing with 155 runs from five games — followed by a 207-run in the senior women's T20 Trophy. She was the second-highest run-scorer in the Madhya Pradesh Women's League: 93 runs in four matches for Bundelkhand Bulls
- She attended the pre-auction trials for RCB and UPW. In the auction, she drew interest from RCB and Mumbai Indians before Giants secured her services for ₹45 lakh
- Anushka is a die-hard Virat Kohli fan and relishes Ashleigh Gardner's all-round approach. Incidentally, her partnership with Gardner set up Giants' victory in the campaign opener

PG inspections reveal rampant violations; citizens call it 'eyewash'

Inspections in C.V. Raman Nagar and Shanti Nagar found that all 321 establishments checked were flouting regulations, prompting the corporation to issue notices to them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's city corporations have launched a crackdown on paying guest (PG) accommodations across the city, revealing widespread violations of safety and hygiene norms. However, citizen groups have said that these inspections appear to be more of a revenue-generation exercise than a genuine effort to address the issues.

Inspections in C.V. Raman Nagar and Shanti Nagar found that all 321 establishments checked were flouting regulations, prompting the corporation to issue notices to all of them and set a seven-day deadline for compliance.

On Monday, January 12, the South City Corporation shut down 10 PGs due to poor hygiene. In the first week of January, the East City Corporation also issued notices to PGs to rectify safety violations in its jurisdiction.

Dhruv N.K., from South Bengaluru, who works on civic issues, called the entire exercise "eyewash", citing several deeper problems.

"If the civic bodies really wanted to fix the issues, they should have looked at building code violations, parking violations, and safety issues. That would force them to shut down most of these establishments," he told *The Hindu*.

GBA officials sealing PG facilities in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

R. Rajagopalan, convener of the Bengaluru Coalition, raised similar concerns, pointing to six- and seven-storeyed buildings constructed on plots that are not even 30X40 sites.

He also noted that the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 norms were being widely violated, making many localities excessively dense.

"The RMP states that PGs are essentially commercial establishments and should not come up in residential areas, but this is rarely considered. Many of these establishments are coming up on roads that are less than 40 ft. wide, which is a clear violation," he said.

Civic groups argue that the corporations' action against these establishments is one-sided, as it focuses only on inspections inside the premises, while visible violations seen on the outside continue unchecked.

K. Karthik, a resident of S.G. Palya, a student-dominated area, said that the rent for decent PG accommodation in South-East Bengaluru was not less than ₹13,000, even for shared rooms. "The rooms are so small that they look like enclosures. Yet, students pay ₹10,000 for such rooms, and if the establishment has biometric systems, they are charged extra," he said. He added that crackdowns should not be triggered only by incidents such as cylinder blasts or safety lapses, but should be a continuous exercise to keep the city safe.

Activists say many establishments do not have trade licences or occupancy certificates because they violate several building codes. Most PGs also depend on purchased electricity and private water supply, as they do not have occupancy certificates.

"It is mandatory for PG establishments to register with local police stations, but they rarely do," Mr. Rajagopalan said. He added that addressing PG-related issues required coordinated efforts from multiple departments and the creation of a central repository.

He said civic authorities should make registration of all PGs mandatory, create a public repository for transparency, and share it with all stakeholder departments to facilitate inspections.

Such a revamp, he pointed out, was the only way for civic bodies to tackle the growing PG menace. If the issue was not addressed soon, city neighbourhoods would become even more densely packed, he warned.

KIA handled 43.82 million passengers in 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of the Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) handled 43.82 million passengers in calendar year 2025 (CY2025), with an 8% year-on-year growth.

The airport also recorded its highest-ever single-day count of 1,37,317 passengers on November 23, 2025.

BIAL, the airport operator, said that air traffic movements (ATMs) peaked at 837 ATMs on October 19, 2025, while the average daily ATMs for the year stood at 765. In October 2025, KIA advanced from third to second place in the number of domestic flights operated among Indian airports, BIAL added.

The average number of daily international departures also increased from 38 in CY2024 to 51 in CY2025, translating to a 28.7% year-on-year growth in international passenger traffic.

As of December 31, 2025, the airport was connected to 113 passenger destinations, comprising 79 domestic and 34 international cities. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Pune emerged as the top domestic destinations, while Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, London Heathrow, and Kuala Lumpur led the international network.

KIA also handled 5,20,985 tonnes of cargo in CY2025, recording a 5% year-on-year increase over CY2024. The airport achieved its highest-ever single-day cargo, coming up to 2,207 tonnes on August 7, 2025.

The airport is now connected to 37 cargo destinations through 15 domestic and international cargo airlines. Chicago, Singapore, London Heathrow, Frankfurt, and Leipzig emerged as the top export markets, while Shenzhen, Shanghai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, and Singapore led imports. Agri-perishables, pharmaceuticals, auto parts and spares, electric and electronic goods, and e-commerce shipments were the primary commodities driving growth.

Political battle lines drawn ahead of long-delayed Bengaluru civic polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru will finally witness civic body elections after a five-year gap, as the Supreme Court on Monday directed the State government to conduct the polls by June 30. Political parties had already begun preparing in anticipation of the ruling.

The Congress is well ahead, having called for applications in December, while the BJP and JD(S) are still in the preparatory stage.

Abdul Wajid, former corporator and petitioner in the Supreme Court case, told *The Hindu* that local leaders were pleased with the judgement.

"After five years and four months, we finally have good news, and it feels great. Our local pool of leaders is very enthusiastic and is preparing well through a series of meetings and planning sessions," Mr. Wajid said. He is currently the president overseeing the Congress' preparations for the civic polls in 72 wards of north Bengaluru. "We have already received 1,100 applications (for all 369 wards) for the polls and are reviewing them," Mr. Wajid told *The Hindu*.

Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport and MLA for BTM Layout, said the Congress held its first official meeting in South Bengaluru on Monday to plan the way forward. "We are preparing a manifesto and a list of our achievements, which will be released once the reservation process is completed and candidates are announced," Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*.

R. Ashok, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and MLA for Padmanabhanagar, said the Congress is guaranteed to be defeated in the GBA election. "The people of Bengaluru are waiting to teach a fitting lesson to the Congress, which has tarnished Bengaluru by turning our city from a global city into a garbage city,

Inclement weather

Motorists driving through drizzle and low visibility on Airport Road near Yelahanka on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

One can now book KSRTC bus tickets at Bengaluru-One centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has expanded its advance reservation facilities to Bengaluru-One and Karnataka-One centres, making it easier and more accessible for passengers to book tickets.

Commuters can now book tickets at Bengaluru-One centres across the city and Karnataka-One centres located in district and taluk headquarters Statewide. This initiative, launched in collaboration with the Directorate of Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (EDCS), aims to enhance convenience and comfort for travellers. For assistance, passengers can contact the KSRTC Call Centre at 080-26252625 (24x7) or AWATAR Cell at 7760990034/35 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Ahead of Sankranti, Bengaluru markets witness a surge in crowds and prices

Aaron Nair
BENGALURU

Prices of vegetables, fruits, and other commodities have shot up in Bengaluru ahead of Sankranti, with the city's major markets witnessing increased footfall.

Weekend shopping

Vendors at K.R. Market said footfall surged on Sunday, with most families stepping out for their weekend shopping. Demand for sugarcane and *ellu-bella* (a mixture of sesame, jaggery, dry coconut, peanuts, and other ingredients) has already risen, they said.

People shopping for vegetables ahead of the Sankranti festival at K.R. Market in Bengaluru on Monday ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Ellu-bella, which was priced at ₹115 per kg last year, has now increased to ₹140. Sugarcane is selling at ₹200 for two pieces, compared to about ₹150 for two pieces earlier.

Common price

"The competition is very high, and a balance is achieved through uniform rates among vendors. We decide on a common price before the festival rush peaks," said Santosh, a sugarcane vendor.

Most fruits have also seen a sharp rise in prices. "Pomegranate is selling at ₹200 per kg, compared to the earlier ₹130 per kg. Similarly, even *yelakki* bananas are priced at ₹60, higher than their usual rate of ₹40," said Shahabuddin, a fruit seller at the market.

Vegetable vendors said their sales mainly pick up during the evening hours. "We adjust the prices in the evening as the market gets more crowded with the working population coming in to buy vegetables," said Mohammad, a vendor at the market.

Yearly trend

Citizens said they have seen the same trend for many years, noting that prices are always at their highest during festival seasons. Prema Murthy, a customer, said that the prices of vegetables and fruits are now higher than they were in supermarkets. "The prices here are higher than in supermarkets, but we still come to the market because everything is fresh," she said.

With the festival nearing, vendors say that the prices would go up further.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

THARANGOTSAV '25

Army Public School PRTC hosted their Annual Day celebration, 'Tarangotsav '25', with a strong focus on environmental responsibility. The programme was centred on SDG 14: Life Below Water and the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, highlighting marine conservation. Brigadier Yogesh Sharma, Commandant, Parachute Regiment Training Centre and Chairman of APS PRTC, graced the occasion and lauded the school's socially relevant theme. Principal Ms Jerry Brinda Solomon presented the annual report outlining the school's academic, co-curricular and sports achievements. A thematic dance-drama by over 500 students highlighted the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems. Guests were presented with plantlets as mementoes.

POWERLIFTING GLORY

Pratham International School, Varthur, Bengaluru, celebrated the achievement of alumnus Vishwas, who won three gold medals in the 90 kg category at the WRPF World Championship held in Moscow. He secured first place in Full Powerlifting, Bench Press and Push-Pull. Vishwas also won eight gold medals at national-level WRPF and WPC championships in India, marking a highly successful competitive season and underlining his consistency and disciplined preparation.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATED

Soundarya Central School celebrated their Annual Day with enthusiasm, presenting the theme 'The Rhythm of Life – Emotions Unfold'. The programme was graced by Justice K. N. Phaneendra, former Judge of the High Court of Karnataka, who commended the school's holistic approach to education. The event featured the presentation of the annual report, prize distribution and cultural performances by students. CEO Keerthan Kumar highlighted the school's sports infrastructure and achievements, urging students to balance academics and sports. The celebration concluded with the school and national anthems.

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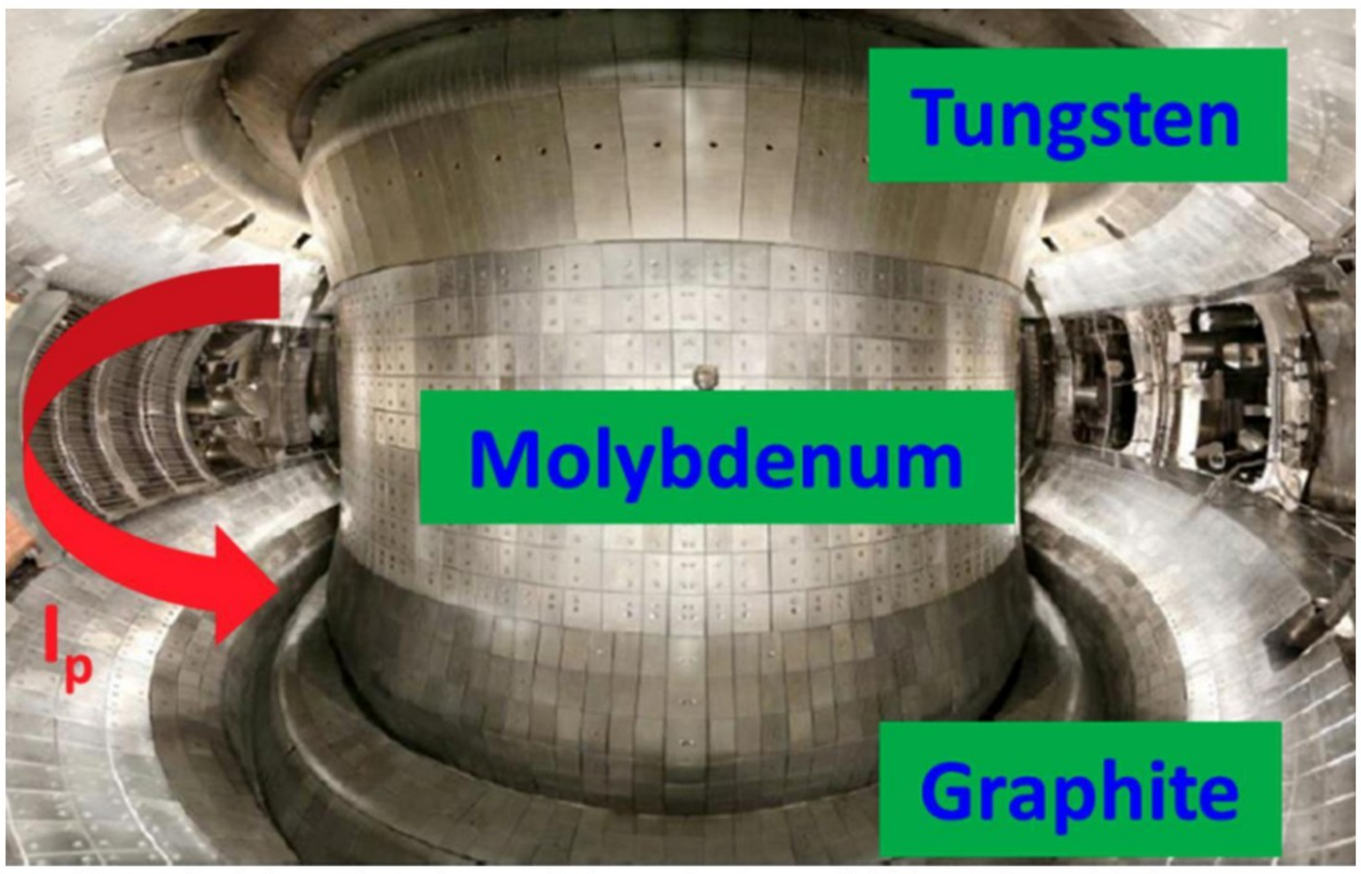
China's reactor pushes density limit; widens path to power

In nuclear fusion reactors, the magnetic vessels designed to hold superhot plasma run into a density limit beyond which the plasma could collapse. But on January 1, a team reported it had achieved stable plasmas that were up to 65% more dense, a breakthrough for burning plasma fusion devices

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI



A view of the EAST tokamak. The upper divertor plates are made of tungsten. The red arrow on the left shows the direction of the plasma current.
DOI:10.1088/1741-4326/AA626C

Scientists at a nuclear fusion reactor in China recently surmounted an important obstacle in operating reactor vessels at high density. They pushed plasma density 65% beyond a special threshold, entering a stable state that overcomes a long-standing barrier to achieving burning plasma, the stage where a fusion reaction becomes self-sustaining.

Fusion power mimics what happens inside the sun. Hydrogen atoms slam together so hard that they fuse into helium, releasing copious amounts of energy. But this reaction only works when the atoms are packed into a small space at an extreme temperature, typically more than 100,000,000° C.

Greenwald limit

In the reactors designed to sustain these reactions, scientists measure success using the triple product: the density multiplied by the temperature multiplied by the confinement time. All three numbers need to be very high for engineers to reach ignition, a state in which a fusion reaction sustains itself.

Density is the number of fuel particles that can be squeezed into the reactor. More density means more collisions and more fusion.

But there's a catch. For decades, tokamaks, the donut-shaped magnetic vessels designed to hold the superhot plasma, ran into the Greenwald density limit. Beyond this limit, the plasma collapses in a disruption that could damage the reactor. The Greenwald formula links this limit to the plasma current and the reactor's size.

The EAST fusion reactor in Hefei in China has typically operated between 80% and 100% of this limit. But in a January 1 paper in *Science Advances*, the EAST team reported it had achieved stable plasmas at densities 1.3x to 1.65x of the limit.

Temperature at divertor

The team achieved this by combining two techniques. First, they used electron cyclotron resonance heating (ECRH) during start-up. In ECRH, microwave beams are shot into the plasma, heating electrons to millions of degrees. This happens before ramping up the plasma current, a large electric current that flows through the plasma to heat it and help create the magnetic cage. Second, the team started with more deuterium gas in the chamber, then fed hydrogen fuel as the plasma heated up.

For the experiments, EAST's tungsten surfaces were also coated with a thin layer of lithium to condition them and reduce impurities. The overall combination changed how the plasma interacted with the reactor walls. When the plasma touches the walls, tungsten atoms from the walls are released into the plasma. Tungsten is an impurity that radiates a lot of heat away, potentially causing the plasma to collapse.

This creates a vicious cycle. Hot plasma strikes the walls, releases impurities, the impurities radiate heat, the plasma gets hotter in the spots that try to compensate, those hot spots hit the walls harder, releasing more impurities. Eventually the system may spiral into disruption.

In 2021, physicist Dominique Escande and colleagues at the Aix-Marseille University in France developed the plasma-wall self-organisation (PWSO) theory to predict this behaviour mathematically.

The theory says two stable states exist: a density-limit regime near the Greenwald limit and a density-free regime where the density limit shoots past the limit.

The difference between the two states is the temperature at the divertor, the part of the reactor where plasma meets the walls.

A cooler divertor means more gentle collisions between particles and the wall, fewer impurities, and thus cleaner plasma, which can pack hydrogen atoms more densely.

Less sputtering

The EAST team ran two sets of experiments. In the first, they held the ECRH power at 600 kW and varied the gas pressure. In the second, they fixed the gas pressure and varied the ECRH power.

This way, the team found that more gas in the chamber led to a cooler divertor and less tungsten contamination. Varying the ECRH power had a smaller effect; in the paper, researchers wrote that that could be because they used relatively low gas pressure in tests.

One unexpected finding emerged from repeated ECRH shots with identical settings. The later experiments reached higher densities than the first ones, even with the same power and gas inputs.

The team found this was because the wall's conditions improved over time as multiple high-density plasmas 'conditioned' its tungsten surface, making it less prone to sputtering.

The experiments were able to achieve densities of up to 5.6×10^{19} particles per cubic metre, around 65% higher than the EAST reactor's normal 3.4×10^{19}. The plasma temperature near the divertor target also dropped by roughly a third, from about 1.1 million to 0.7-0.8 million degrees C. The plasma also had fewer heavy atoms mixed in.

> The findings suggest a practical and scalable pathway for extending density limits in tokamaks and next-generation burning plasma fusion devices
>
> **ZHU PING**
> Professor at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Beyond the limit

The measurements matched the predictions of the PWSO theory remarkably well.

The team tested both a simplified zero-dimensional model and a more complex one-dimensional model to simulate the way temperature and density of impurities changed in the plasma.

Both models placed EAST's results squarely in the density-free regime, the stable state in which the plasma density exceeds the Greenwald limit.

Previous experiments in the J-TEXT tokamak in Wuhan stayed in the density-limit regime. The difference could be the J-TEXT reactor's carbon walls. While tungsten sputters by bombarding the plasma, carbon undergoes additional chemical reactions and releases more impurities.

The new advance doesn't 'solve' fusion energy. The EAST tests ran at relatively low power and plasma current, and lasted several seconds rather than the hours needed for a power plant.

The density-free regime also isn't truly unlimited. At extreme density, different types of turbulence and instabilities can arise independent of the divertor. As density increases, engineers will also need more power to keep the plasma hot enough to fuse. But those constraints arise far beyond the Greenwald limit.

In future experiments, per the paper, engineers could further lower the divertor temperature by increasing both the ECRH power and the gas pressure, possibly reaching full detachment, a condition in which the plasma barely touches the walls. Detached plasmas could operate at densities several times the Greenwald limit.

Matters for ITER

"The findings suggest a practical and scalable pathway for extending density limits in tokamaks and next-generation burning plasma fusion devices," Zhu Ping, Professor at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan and a co-lead of the new study, said in a release.

Fusion researchers often focus on temperature and confinement time while treating density as constrained by the Greenwald limit. The new experiments challenge that assumption.

The potential implication is that if a reactor can be run at twice the fuel density, it might achieve the conditions for ignition at lower temperatures or with shorter confinement times.

This matters for ITER, the large international fusion experiment under construction in France, and in which India has invested.

"Density limit is one of the critical issues in tokamak plasma for a fusion power plant. Plasma-wall self-organisation theory proposed in the ... paper should be validated to overcome the density limit in ITER," Ryoji Hiwatari of the Japan National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology wrote on X.

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Von Daeniken addresses a press conference in Bern, Switzerland, in October 1999. REUTERS

Author who made ancient alien theories popular dies

Reuters

Best-selling Swiss author Erich von Daeniken, who built a lucrative career on his argument, rubbished by scientists and archaeologists, that humanity owes much of its development to the intervention of extraterrestrial beings, has died aged 90.

Chariots of the Gods?, published in 1968, sold millions of copies with its thesis that advanced aliens had repeatedly visited the earth, leaving their mark in the form of Inca and Egyptian ruins, cave drawings and other physical monuments.

"It took courage to write this book, and it will take courage to read it," the work begins.

It acknowledged that scholars would dismiss it as nonsense, but insisted that "the past teemed with unknown gods who visited the primeval earth in manned spaceships".

Chariots of the Gods? sold millions of copies with its thesis that advanced aliens had visited the earth, leaving their mark in Inca and Egyptian ruins

Academics wrote books refuting his theories, criticising him as a purveyor of some of the more fantastical notions of pseudoscience. German news magazine *Der Spiegel* even had a 1973 cover story titled 'The Daeniken Hoax'.

Nevertheless, legions of fans snapped up his more than 40 books and watched his television specials and documentary films. His books were translated into more than 30 languages.

Von Daeniken spent the early part of his working life managing a hotel in eastern Switzerland, where a fraud conviction landed him in jail for 18 months. But as his book took off, he emerged from prison as a best-selling author.

Still, he never presented the smoking gun to fulfill astronomer Carl Sagan's famous adage that "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence".

"He ... says that the astonishing astronomical information ancient civilizations, such as the Mayan, had is proof that there were some space travellers around to teach it to them. This fits in with his general questioning of the ability of the Egyptians to build the pyramids, or the Easter Islanders to erect those massive stone heads," the *New York Times* wrote in 1974.

'Method is to use a negative'

"His method is to use a negative - ancient peoples couldn't have done or thought all the things they did - to prove a positive - that the ancient people were the beneficiaries of some kind of cosmological Point 4 (development assistance) programme."

Such criticism never knocked von Daeniken off his stride. "We owe it to our self-respect to be rational and objective," he wrote. "At some time or other every daring theory seemed to be a Utopia. How many Utopias have long since become everyday realities!"

Television specials about his books made him a well-known figure in Europe and in the U.S. In 2003, he opened a Mysteries of the World theme park in Switzerland that went bust after three years.

In a treatise on his website, von Daeniken said he was not an esoteric, and that his work served to debunk "a world of religious and unfortunately often scientific humbugs".

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The rules by which flags play

Vasudevan Mukunth

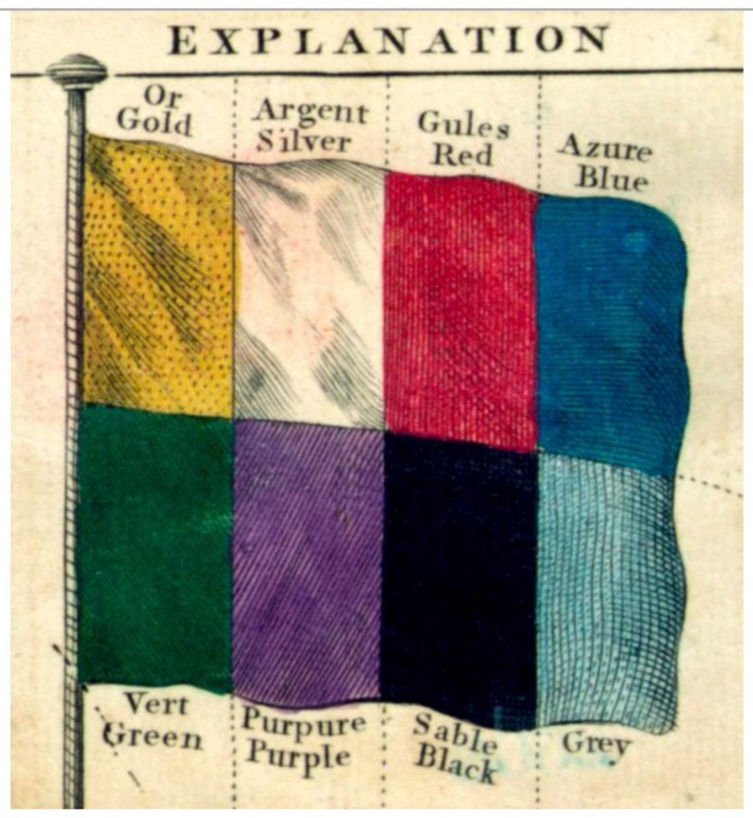
QUESTION 1
The half or edge of the flag nearest to the flagpole is called the hoist. In vexillography, this is considered to be the leading edge. The fly is edge furthest from the flagpole and experiences the most movement and physical wear. The field is the background colour. What's the upper-hoist quarter called? It's the most prestigious position for secondary symbols.

QUESTION 2
Per the North American Vexillological Association, a flag is said to be effective if it's simple enough for a child to draw from memory. Conversely, among other things, _____ is discouraged because it's illegible from a distance and appears reversed on the opposite side. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
The _____ _____ is the ratio of the width to the height. For most national flags it's 2:1 or 3:2. That of the flags of Switzerland and Vatican City is 1:1. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
In the X tradition, symbols on the flag with a discernible direction almost universally face the hoist (see Q1). This is because facing the fly is historically associated with retreat or cowardice. Name X

QUESTION 5
Many flags are not isolated designs but belong to certain 'families' based on a shared regional history or political ideology. These include the Nordic Cross, characterised by an off-centre cross; pan-African colours, which are derived from the flag of _____; pan-Arab colours, derived from the Arab Revolt; and pan-Slavic colours, derived from the Russian flag. Fill in the blank.



VISUAL: This 'infographic' from an 18th century work explains the famous rule of _____, by which heralds may be designed. Fill in the blank. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Answers to January 8 quiz:
1. Heat propagating as a wave rather than by diffusion – Ans: **Second sound**
2. Light emitted by particles moving faster than light in a medium – Ans: **Cherenkov radiation**
3. Collective burst of light from identical emitters acting together – Ans: **Superradiance**
4. Ripples of magnetism moving through a material – Ans: Spin wave
5. When sound waves travel long distances through the air – Ans: **Global ducting**
Visual: **Refractive index**
First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Anbu Elangovan | Anmol Agrawal | Snehil & Dharmesh Jain

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

1 km built in 25 years: HC asks govt. to scrap BMIC project

Court directs State government to come up with a new plan to decongest Bengaluru city

Krishnaprasad
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ordered the State government to scrap the controversial Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, observing that only one kilometre of the proposed 111-km expressway had been built in over 25 years.

The court also noted that none of the five townships planned in 1995 to ease congestion in Bengaluru had materialised to date.

"The beautiful and futuristic concept of decongesting the city as conceived under the Project Technical Report (PTR) of 1995 has been killed at the cost of the citizens and the environment... it would be in the interest of the city, citizens, environment, and the future to re-look at the project and take appropriate action for fresh and new project discarding the old one," the court observed while pointing out that no purpose would be served to keep the BMIC project alive.

The court observed that it would be in the interest of the city, citizens, environment, and the future to re-look at the project and take appropriate action for fresh and new project discarding the old one.
K. MURALI KUMAR

A Division Bench, comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T., issued these directions in its January 9 verdict while dismissing a petition, filed in 2010, by a land owner seeking sites as compensation for land acquired for the project even after receiving monetary compensation with consent.

Outdated project

"This is a classic example of the non-commitment to the public planning by the people in power for various reasons, which may be large-scale corruption, bureaucratic trapping, and litigation... This project, instead of de-clogging and de-congesting the city by developing five townships on the Bangalore-Mysore corridor, has clogged and congested the High Court and other courts," with over 2,000 cases, the Bench observed.

Though the PTR was prepared in 1995 to contain the city's population at 70 lakh and decongest the city by creating five townships between Bengaluru and Mysuru, anticipating that the population would cross 85 lakh by 2011, the Bench said the BMIC project had remained only on paper for the past 30 years as only 47 km of peripheral roads were built even though the city's population had now reached 1.4 crore.

'Sitting on land bank'

Noting that "the project proponents, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Ltd. (NICE) and Nandi Economic Corridors Enterprises (NECEL), are collecting huge tolls by constructing only peripheral roads and toll plazas", the Bench said that "the project proponents are sitting on a huge land bank, but without its proper usage as the expressway has not yet been constructed and there is no sign of it being constructed in future".

Pointing out that the the government had signed a Frame Work Agreement (FWA) with NICE in 1997 for the project, the Bench said that in fact, both the earlier concept and the contract had got frustrated, requiring a new plan to decongest Bengaluru city.

"...The population of the city is more than 1.4 crore. The snarling traffic and traffic jams are the order of the day. It takes hours to travel a small distance in the city. The infrastructure facilities are crumbling down. The environment is badly affected.... The State government, therefore, must take necessary decision for fresh planning by discarding the FWA of the project at the earliest to ameliorate the living conditions of the city," the Bench said, hoping that an informed decision would be taken in this regard at the earliest.

VTU to launch app to track activity points for students to prevent fraud

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has developed a mobile app, Activity Point Tracking System (APTS), to curb the unethical practice of engineering students submitting fake documents for activity points.

All students will have to download this app and upload geo-tagged photos of their extra curricular activities, which will earn them activity points.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) started awarding activity points from 2018-19 for extra curricular activities.

Students have to earn at least 75 out of 100 activity points in their four-year engineering course to get their degree.

List of activities

The list of activities a student can engage in to get activity points is designed to develop entrepreneurial capabilities with social commitment, develop soft skills, leadership qualities, and team spirit among others.

They include preparing an actionable business proposal for enhancing the village income, developing sustainable water management system, tourism promotion innovative approaches, promotion of appropriate technologies, reduction in energy consumption, to skill rural population, facilitating 100% digitised money transactions, setting of the information imparting club for women leading to contribution in social and economic issues, among others.

The mobile app has been developed in collaboration with Youth for Seva and Life Cycle Sports Pvt. Ltd. GETTY IMAGES

Students have to earn at least 75 out of 100 activity points in their four-year engineering course to get their degree

Proof

The students must submit the documents or photos to their mentors as proof of participation in activities. However, some students misused this by submitting documents without actually participating. "According to the AICTE rules, students must earn activity points through their extra curricular activities. However, some students misused this by submitting fake documents and photographs. To prevent such unethical practices, we decided to use the technology and curb it. We successfully tested the app, and it will be launched soon," said S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor, VTU.

The APTS app has been developed in collaboration with Youth for Seva and Life Cycle Sports Pvt. Ltd. The students must enter complete details of the activities they participated in.

They must also upload the geo-tagged photos and certificate of the school or organisation concerned. The app will record how many hours they spent in the activity.

BJP fact-finding committee claims Kogilu families may include illegal migrants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP fact-finding committee, headed by MLA for Yelahanka S.R. Vishwanath, on the Kogilu demolition issue, expressed suspicion that many families living in Fakeer Colony and Waseem Layout were from Bangladesh, but did not provide any conclusive documents to support its claim.

Petitions Governor

Meanwhile, a BJP delegation that met Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday petitioned him to ensure that alternative houses should not be allotted to "encroachers" who lost their homes in Kogilu.

The committee report said that though the evicted families claim to have lived in the area for over 15 years, they failed to answer the committee's questions properly.

The BJP fact-finding committee submitting its report on the Kogilu Layout issue to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The families also did not produce proper family trees, the report noted. As a supporting document for its claim that the families had been living there for only two to three years, the committee attached satellite images showing changes on the land from 2018 onwards. The basis of the argument is that there is a mismatch between the address on the Aadhaar cards of these families and their voter IDs. "Some of them have their addresses in and around KGF, Tin Factory and Kogilu but appear suspicious. The families have arrived from neighbouring districts and some from Bangladesh and have settled here," the report said. "These families have also obtained ration cards using fake documents. There is a mismatch in all documents," the report said. However, there is no report or verification document to show that the Aadhaar cards are duplicates. The committee said it has sent the Aadhaar details of all the families to the Unique Identification Authority of India to verify their authenticity.

The committee says it has sent the Aadhaar details of all the families to the Unique Identification Authority of India to verify their authenticity

The report argued that the government has no legal provision to allot houses to the affected families under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme. The committee warned that doing so would have future implications.

"Those who have encroached on government land will also seek rehabilitation like this when they are asked to vacate, using this incident as a precedent," the report said.

Eight held for SSLC preparatory exam question paper leak

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North Division Cyber Crime police have arrested eight persons, including six teachers, in connection with the SSLC preparatory examination question paper leak. They have detained two students for questioning.

The arrests were made following an investigation into the leak of the Hindi subject preparatory examination question paper a few days ago.The language question papers were allegedly circulated on YouTube, prompting officials of the Department of Pre-University Education to file a complaint.

During the investigation, the police uncovered a large network involved in leaking examination question papers. The accused were being questioned to ascertain how the question paper was leaked and whether more persons were involved in the racket, the police said.

The accused include teachers and headmasters working in Tumakuru, Bengaluru South, and Kalaburagi districts. Probe revealed that the question paper was allegedly leaked and circulated through Instagram and Telegram groups, and students accessed the papers through private messages.

The police said the leaked question papers were being sold in the range of ₹200 to ₹500.

During the probe, the police traced the leak to specific teacher login codes used to download the question papers, which led to the arrests. Investigators suspected that some teachers obtained the question papers and shared them online or facilitated their circulation.

The police have seized the mobile phones of the accused, and have launched a probe.

Republic Day flower show at Lalbagh to honour writer Poornachandra Tejaswi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Celebrated Kannada writer K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi, regarded as one of the most influential voices in Kannada literature for his engagement with nature and society, will be the focus of this year's Republic Day Lalbagh Flower Show, to be held from January 14 to 26.

The floral event, which is slated to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, is featured on the theme 'Tejaswi Vismaya'.

The Department of Horticulture is expecting over 11 lakh visitors during the 13-day period.

The Glass House, the key attraction of the exhibition, has been designed around landscapes that recur across Tejaswi's life and work, particularly the Western Ghats, where he lived for much of his life. The main installation will feature a floral mountain range, a waterfall and a replica of Niruttara, the house that became central to his intellectual and creative life, the department officials said.

Preparations under way for the Republic Day flower show at Lalbagh in Bengaluru, on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The theme, as per the officials, was discussed for over more than a month through consultations with writers, literary scholars, and people closely associated with Tejaswi. "The objective was to translate his ideas, characters, and scientific temper into visual form. The displays attempt to reflect his worldview and not merely his image," said M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks and Gardens), Lalbagh.

As part of this, several characters from Tejaswi's landmark novel Carvalho have been recreated using over five lakh flowers and about 2.4 lakh plants, while other installations include a 12-foot vertical garden titled Mantra Mangalya and a thread-art portrait of the writer. Two moving flower tableaux, for the first time, will circle the Glass House during the exhibition, adding a dynamic element to the show, Mr. Jagadeesh said.

Tickets are priced at ₹80 for adults on weekdays and ₹100 on weekends. Children's tickets cost ₹30, while school students in uniform will be have free entry on working days. Online ticketing is available through the Karnataka Horticulture Department's portal, the officials added.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 13	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:11
RISE 02:02	SET 13:40
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:12
RISE 02:53	SET 14:24
THURSDAY, JAN. 15	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:12
RISE 03:46	SET 15:13

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	27	17
Bengaluru	23	16

Bengaluru Today
24°C The weather will be dry. Day will be pleasant. Night will be cool and hazy. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be pleasant. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Who wrote The Eleventh Hour, his first work of fiction after surviving a 2022 attack that left him blind in one eye?
2. Which children's book series centres on a group of five friends—Julian, Dick, Anne, George, and Timmy the dog?
3. Which classic science-fiction novel by H. G. Wells was adapted into Steven Spielberg's 2005 film starring Tom Cruise?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Anne Frank | 2. Casino Royale | 3. Chennai

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Pulkit.K, New Delhi | 2. R.Rajendrababa, Chennai
3. Sadhan Patra, Varanasi

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The economic burden of India due to diabetes

11.4 In $ trillion. India faces the second highest economic burden due to diabetes of $11.4 trillion. The United States bears the highest costs at $16.5 trillion, and China the third at $11 trillion, a study says. Researchers calculated the economic impact of diabetes across 204 nations. PTI

India's credit-deposit ratio as of December 15 last year

82 In per cent. With the financialisation of the economy, India's Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio has been increasing since 2000-01 from 53% to 82% as of December 15, 2025, which signifies better financial development and strong economic growth, a report said. PTI

Retail inflation rose to a three-month high in December, 2025

1.33 In per cent. Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 1.33% in December mainly due to higher prices of kitchen essentials, including vegetables and protein-rich items. The inflation was at 0.71% in November. The previous high was 1.44% in September. PTI

Nurses involved in a strike at several New York City hospitals

15,000 Nurses in three hospital systems in New York City went on strike after negotiations failed to yield breakthroughs in their contract disputes. The strike could potentially force the hospitals to transfer patients. AP

The positive growth trajectory of Goa's economy in 2023-24

14.94 In per cent. Goa's economy has shown a positive growth trajectory of 14.94% in 2023-24 (provisional) as per estimates received from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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BMC elections: the rise of fluid alliances

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections, scheduled for January 15, represent a high-stakes battle for control of India's richest civic body. The city has turned into a contested battleground shaped by shifting coalitions, identity politics, and strategic alliances

EXPLAINER

Sanjay Kumar
Arindam Kabir

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, have turned Mumbai into an epicentre of India's most complex urban political contest. Unprecedented alliances, including the reunion of Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), clash with the organisational dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shinde Sena Mahayuti, which has already secured a significant edge through unopposed wins. As Congress breaks from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), new equations make voters face a stark choice. The verdict will shape not just Mumbai's civic future, but Maharashtra's evolving political order.

Scheduled for January 15, with counting on January 16, BMC elections represent a high-stakes battle for control of India's richest civic body, boasting a budget exceeding ₹74,000 crore.

Confusing alliances

Maharashtra's civic polls highlight a complex web where everyone is allied to everyone and simultaneously opposed to everyone. The standout is the Uddhav-Raj Thackeray reunion with the Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS, bitter rivals for decades, uniting against the BJP-Shinde Sena dominance, invoking Marathi pride and Balasaheb Thackeray's legacy through joint rallies. Yet Congress, once a partner with Uddhav's Sena as part of the MVA, has rejected this "communal" MNS tie-up, breaking ranks to ally with the Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi (VBA), which will be contesting 62 seats for Dalit-minority consolidation.

The Mahayuti alliance (BJP-Shinde Sena) appears cohesive, with the BJP contesting 137 seats and the Shinde-led Sena 90. However, underlying tensions over power-sharing persist despite formal Fadnavis-Shinde protocols. Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) adds to the complexity; it is contesting the BMC alone with 94 seats, yet in Pune it has allied with Sharad Pawar's NCP directly opposing its own Mahayuti partners. Across camps, parties are aggressively courting key voter blocs – the Dalits (Congress and VBA), Marathas (the Thackerays), minorities (VBA), and women (with the BJP fielding 76 female candidates). At the same time, former allies are increasingly turning on one another. The MVA has fractured as Congress distances itself from the Sena (UBT), while the Mahayuti has sidelined Ajit Pawar's NCP at the local level. The Thackerays, meanwhile, have reconciled selectively to target Shinde's splinter faction. This fluid pattern of alliances, where today's ally becomes tomorrow's adversary, highlights a defining trend in contemporary Maharashtra politics.

BMC's electoral journey

Shiv Sena's factionalism since the 2019 split eroded its BMC fortress, once a Thackeray family bastion, paving the way for BJP's meteoric rise. The 2017 elections marked this fundamental shift

Party	Seats 2012	Seats 2017	Seat Change	Alliance-wise in 2017
Shiv Sena	75	84	Increase, 9	166
Bharatiya Janata Party	31	82	Increase, 51	
Indian National Congress	52	31	Decrease, 21	40
Nationalist Congress Party	13	9	Decrease, 4	
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	28	7	Decrease, 21	
Samajwadi Party	9	6	Increase, 6	
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	0	2	Increase, 2	
Akhil Bharatiya Sena	0	1	Decrease, 1	
Independent	15	5		
Others	4			
Total	227	227		206

ANI

The rise of factions in BMC

Shiv Sena's factionalism since the 2019 split eroded its BMC fortress, once a Thackeray family bastion, paving the way for BJP's rise. The 2017 elections marked this shift: from 2012's classic Sena-BJP vs Congress-NCP duel (44.75% turnout) to a fractured multi-cornered contest in 2017. Sena contested all 227 wards, won 84 (many with <40% vote share), but needed BJP's post-poll support in a hung house (no one crossed 114). BJP surged from 31 to 82 seats; Congress plummeted from 52 to 31; MNS collapsed from 28 to 7, hurting Sena strongholds. BJP's organisational edge signalled its ascent, which has now culminated in its already unopposed lead.

Mahayuti, with the BJP and Shinde Sena fighting together, commands early control of 68 unopposed BMC/civic seats (with the BJP in 44). This reflects BJP's machinery and Shinde Sena's recovery from the split, positioning them for decisive victory. BJP's 137 candidates, including 76 women, target Sena's traditional turf while the Shinde Sena's 90 seats lean on coalition dynamics. Uddhav's Sena-UBT and the MNS have bet on the *Marathi Manoos* (native of Maharashtra) rhetoric and youth mobilisation via Aaditya/Amit Thackeray's shakha tours. The Congress-VBA (165+62 seats) alliance is exploiting MVA rifts for Dalit leverage, criticising the Thackeray-MNS tie-up as divisive.

A new Mumbai

Once a Shiv Sena stronghold, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has turned into a contested battleground shaped by shifting coalitions, identity politics, and strategic alliances. This no doubt offers rich material to study mandate fragility, regionalism, and power-sharing in fragmented democracies. The "everyone versus everyone" nature of alliances in Mumbai highlights a new era of Indian electoral politics that demands deeper academic analysis.

As Mumbai heads to the counting day, the BMC election stands less as a routine civic contest and more as a referendum on Maharashtra's new-age politics. The city is being asked to choose between memory and momentum: the emotive pull of the Thackeray legacy, now awkwardly reunited and politically diminished, versus the organisational might of the BJP-Shinde Sena alliance. These elections will reveal whether Mumbai's voters still see the Thackerays as the natural custodians of the city's civic and cultural identity, or whether they are ready to endorse the post-split reality where power has decisively shifted away from the Shiv Sena (UBT).

Sanjay Kumar is a professor and election analyst. Arindam Kabir is a researcher with Lokniti-CSDS. Views expressed are personal. It does not reflect the views of their institution.

THE GIST

- Unprecedented alliances, including the reunion of Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), clash with the organisational dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shinde Sena Mahayuti, which has already secured a significant edge through unopposed wins.
- The Mahayuti alliance (BJP-Shinde Sena) appears cohesive, with the BJP contesting 137 seats and the Shinde-led Sena 90. However, underlying tensions over power-sharing persist despite formal Fadnavis-Shinde protocols.
- Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) adds to the complexity; it is contesting the BMC alone with 94 seats, yet in Pune it has allied with Sharad Pawar's NCP.

How Trump is violating international law

The breakdown of the balance of power principle has led to the U.S. employing unchecked power

Thomas Mathew

U.S. President Donald Trump's macho disposition was on full display when he took to the podium at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida retreat, to announce U.S. military action against Venezuela. He said that the capture of Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela and his wife, Cilia Flores, to face trial on charges of "narco-terrorism" in New York was a "spectacular assault". He announced that the U.S. would "run" the country and use its oil wealth to compensate U.S. companies whose corporations had been nationalised some two decades back.

Was U.S. military action in Venezuela actually about countering narco-terrorism? Since 2000, drug overdoses have claimed almost a million and a quarter U.S. lives. But, nearly 69% were on account of fentanyl – precursor chemicals of which are produced in China. Venezuela is only a "modest" source of cocaine in the U.S. However, Venezuela does have the largest proven oil reserves in the world. Mr. Trump's declaration that U.S. oil companies, which are the "biggest anywhere in the world," would now enter the South American nation, left little need for further confirmation of his intentions.

Violation of international law

The U.S's action in Venezuela is one of the most flagrant violations of international law. It hardly needs emphasis that the action has violated the core of the UN charter [Article 2(4)] which prohibits the "threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State" except with the approval of the UN Security Council or in self-defence (Article 51).

This event signals the breakdown of the balance of power in international relations. Originally a European construct to maintain peace among several nations, it underwent radical change in the 20th century. After World War II, it attained a bipolar architecture with the U.S. and the Soviet Union as the main actors. During this period, neither country could employ power unhindered. One balanced the other, maintaining a tenuous peace.

A balance of power

The attack on Venezuela calls to mind how power dynamics played out in the Indian subcontinent during the Bangladesh War in December 1971. It frustrated the machinations of the visceral anti-Indian administration of President Richard Nixon. When Washington moved the US Seventh Fleet Task Force TF-74 to intimidate New Delhi into submission, a Soviet counter-deployment of cruisers, destroyers, and submarines neutralised the threat. It was the typical countervailing of a superpower by another in a classical play of the balance-of-power concept. Similarly, when the third army of Egypt was threatened with annihilation in the 1973 Yom Kippur War at the hands of Israel, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev moved airborne divisions to staging grounds, as Egypt was a close ally of Moscow. A worried U.S. declared DEFCON 3 (a U.S. defence readiness/threat alert). Israel capitulated, and the Soviet warning saved the Egyptian army.

However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world lost the sole power capable of challenging the unchecked exercise of power by the U.S. Emboldened, Washington has given itself the right to engage in pre-emptive war. It has toppled regimes in Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Syria either through direct action or supported movements.

In the immediate future, only China can emerge as a counter-balance to the U.S. A loose axis between Russia and China could challenge the existing unipolar structure, though differences between the major powers may prevent an enduring partnership.

With the U.S. proving yet again that it is insensitive to India's security interests, New Delhi needs to go a long way before it can be a counter-balancer. It needs to evolve an imaginative and out-of-the-box strategy to build its military-industrial complex and strengthen its defence.

Thomas Mathew is a retd. civil servant who has served in the Indian Defence Ministry.

THE GIST

- The U.S's action in Venezuela is one of the most flagrant violations of international law.
- The attack on Venezuela calls to mind how power dynamics played out in the Indian subcontinent during the Bangladesh War in December 1971. It frustrated the machinations of the visceral anti-Indian administration of President Richard Nixon.
- With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world lost the sole power capable of challenging the unchecked exercise of power by the U.S.

Notice to govt. on PIL seeking land for constructing new building for HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition, which has sought a direction to the State government to provide a 30-acre land for construction of a new state-of-the-art building for the High Court, which is facing severe space constrains, in the central business area.

A view of the Karnataka High Court. FILE PHOTO

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order on the petition filed way back in June 2023 by Sharan Desai, a city-based architect. It has been pointed out in the petition that though the government had agreed to construct a new seven-storied building near the existing main building of the High Court, the move was not taken forward for various reasons, including the issue related to construction on the boundary of the Cubbon Park. Pointing out that staff of the High Court and litigants face problem due to the scattering of various branches of the High Court in different government buildings far away from the court's main building, the petitioner has said that the government should provide at least 30 acres of land in city's centra area and construct a state-of-the-art building.

'Govt. identifying land'

The present petition was filed when the several branches, which were housed in the basement floor of the High Court's annexe building, were being shifted to different government buildings after a few PIL petitions questioned the use of basement floors for housing offices of various branches of the court.

The petitioner, who back in 2023, had suggested the possibility of making use of the lands of the Bangalore Turfs Club Pvt. Ltd. on Race Course Road, Bengaluru Palace Grounds, or Bengaluru Golf Club on Sankey Road etc., on Monday pointed out to the court that recently Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar too has given a statement to the media that the government is identifying land for constructing a new building for the High Court. At present the High Court is housed in Attara Kacheri, constructed during 1968 and had housed administrative departments of the princely State during the British regime, and in the annexe building, constructed behind the *Attara Kacheri* during 1980s after dropping the initial plan to demolish the old *Attara Kacheri* and construct a new building.

In addition, the different wings of the High Court are functioning in the adjacent KGID building, and various government buildings situated away from the main building on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi.

Two Bangladeshi nationals held for residing illegally in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hebbagodi Police have arrested two persons who were alleged to be Bangladeshi nationals and were reportedly residing illegally in the city.

Fake documents

They have been identified as Jahidul Islam, 35, and Firdous, 32. According to the police, the duo had been living illegally at Podu Village near Hulimangala in Electronics City for the past two years. Investigation revealed that the accused had entered India illegally and later procured fake documents, including passports, Aadhaar cards, and other identity papers, in an attempt to conceal their nationality. They were working at a scrap shed near Hulimangala and were involved in collecting scrap materials and plastic bottles after dark, the police claimed.

When questioned by the police, the accused falsely claimed that they were natives of Kolkata. Acting on specific and credible information, the police conducted a raid and detained the duo.

The police suspected that several illegal Bangladeshi immigrants may be residing in the surrounding areas. Further investigation is under way, and authorities are verifying the documents to identify others who may be involved.

The police have continued their probe to trace the network through which the accused were able to procure fraudulent Indian documents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **Sri.LALITH KUMAR** S/o late Bhikamchand and his wife **Smt.MANISHA.S**, both residing at: No.80/257, 53rd Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.80, (CITB/BDA Site No.257), PID No.22-18-80, New E.PID No.1658156444, measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 40ft, together with a building thereon, situated at 53rd Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore and bounded on:

East By : Site No.258
West By : Road
North By : Site No.276
South By : Road

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**,
Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM No. 50/2025

Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 20254515B opening date on 29/01/2025 published in advaertised tender notice no. EPS/115/2025. The amendment made is as under:

Tender No. & short Description	Description	
	Delivery/ Competion	Rate of Supply
20254515B **Description-** Brake Shoe Complete		
Description For all items	On or Before 30/09/2026	50% Qty. supply within 3 months and balance Qty. will be supply after 01/07/2026 to 30/09/2026 please.

Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in

Sd./-
For principal Chief Material Manager,
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 45 UBL 2025-26
Dated : 05.01.2026

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division : Proposed Construction of SSE/ W/Water works/Hubballi office building and stores building at Hubballi.	Rs. 1,51,31,241/-
2	Hubballi Division : Carrying out of field survey, preparation of conceptual plan & GAD for elimination of LC gates by ROB/RUB in Hubballi Division (62 No's).	Rs. 2,26,10,773/-
3	Hubballi Division : Provision of sacrificial Rail piece safety fencing (60 No's) for high mast installations at loading/unloading stations under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 47,89,599/-
4	Hubballi Division : Alnavar- Ambewadi section: Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 11 @ KM 19/820 in between Shingatgeri - Ambewadi stations.	Rs. 5,60,79,927/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11.00 Hours on 04-02-2026
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/800/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-36
Dated : 28-01-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Cyber Security measures in Scada system for 25KV and 2x25KV single phase 50Hz Traction Power supply of Synergy make in Hubballi Division.	Rs. 3,65,80,006/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 28-01-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Hubballi
PUB/807/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CHANGE OF NAME

I, H.G. Shivashankar S/o Late H. Gangadharasa, R/at No.5, 6, Purnasheshachar Lane, 4th Cross, Near Chickpet Cross, Chickpet, Bengaluru - 560053 do hereby solemnly state that as per my Aadhaar Card (No.3351 2644 3436) my correct name is **H. G. SHIVASHANKAR** and Date of Birth is **14.11.1961.** But in my Passport (A755305) my name is worngly mentioned as **H. G. SHIVASHANKARA** and Date of Birth **13.08.1960.** I kindly request concerned authorities to carry out the necessary correction in my Passport vide affidavit dated 08.01.2026 sworn to Notary S. Eswara Reddy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr.A.MOHSIN KHAN,** Son of Late Ali Afsar Khan, has lost the Original Sale dated 06.08.2020, Document No.1279, of Book I, stored in CD.No.BGRD 714, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Begur, in respect of the schedule property. My client has informed that inspite of his best efforts he was unable to trace the same and has also lodged an online police complaint on dated 12.01.2026 in respect of the same.

If any Person/s find the aforesaid original Sale Deed, they may handover the same to the undersigned within **30 days** from the date of this publication.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the 1BHK **Flat bearing No.A-701,** with super built-up area measuring **700 sft,** in the Sixth Floor of **'ISIRI STONE CREEK',** without covered car parking space, having **BBMP EPID No.2195101911,** with an undivided share of 150 sft., in the land and the apartment building constructed on the land bearing Sy.No.11/3, 11/4, measuring an extent of 32 guntas, situated at **Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** and the apartment is constructed with RCC roofing and Vitrified Tiles Flooring.

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar,
Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845090974

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Feroj Khan S/O, Babu Khan R/o H.no. 2/138 Post Nagaidlai Tq; Chincholi Dist: Kalaburagi - 585307 have changed my name to Feroz Babu Khan.

I, SRINIVAS M Sannidhi, S/o Hoodi Muniyappa, R/at Villa No.F1 10 Phase 2 Skylark Arcadia, Kodigehalli Main Road, Whitefiled, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name from Srinivas M Sannidhi to Raja Srinivas Sannidhi vide affidavit dated 12/01/2026 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

I, INDU Vinod, W/o Varkey, R/at No.133, G Floor, 1st Main, Bikasipura, Bengaluru -560062 have changed my name from Indu Vinod to Indu Joseph Thoppil vide affidavit dated 12/01/2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

REAL ESTATE

HILLTOP FARM For Sale In Wayanad. Cont:7338630606

BEFORE THE HON'BLE CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, K R PURAM BENGALURU RURAL
O.S. No.1180/2025

BETWEEN: Mrs. BHARATHI MOHAN MAHTANI Wife of Late Mohan Mahtani, Aged about 80 years, Residing at: 9/1 Brady's Flats Sorab Bharucha Road, Colaba, Mumbai - 400005. India. Also, at 19 Umaru Babura Road, Kano, Nigeria - 700282. ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND

1. Mr. MANJUNATH B.K., Aged about 42 years, S/o Krishnappa, Residing at No. 11, Bidarahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru - 560049.
2. Mrs. MUNIAKKAYAMMA D/o Late Poojappa Aged about 73 years,
3. Mrs. ANASUYAMMA, D/o Late Poojappa Aged about 57 years,
Defendant No.2 and 3 are Residing at No.38, Byrathi Anjaneya Temple Road, Kothanur Post, Bengaluru - 560 077. ... **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE/SUMMONS UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908 TO THE DEFENDANT NO. 1 AND PROPOSED DEFENDANT NO. 2 & 3

DEFENDANT NO. 1: Mr. MANJUNATH B.K., Aged about 42 years, S/o Krishnappa, Residing at No. 11, Bidarahalli Village, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru - 560049.
DEFENDANT NO. 2: Mrs. MUNIAKKAYAMMA D/o Late Poojappa Aged about 73 years, Residing at No.38, Byrathi Anjaneya Temple Road, Kothanur Post, Bengaluru - 560 077.
DEFENDANT NO. 3: Mrs. ANASUYAMMA D/o Late Poojappa Aged about 57 years, Residing at No.38, Byrathi Anjaneya Temple Road, Kothanur Post, Bengaluru - 560 077.

Whereas the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a Suit in the Court of the Hon'ble Civil Judge and JMFC, KR Puram, Bengaluru Rural District, seeking for various reliefs. Take Notice that the above case is posted on **07/02/2026** before the Court of the Hon'ble Civil Judge and JMFC, KR Puram, Bengaluru Rural District,and you are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on **07/02/2026** at 11:00 AM in person or through an advocate/pleader on the day specified. Failing which the said Suit will be heard and determined ex - parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of portion of land bearing Sy. No. 25/1 ad-measuring 22,494 Sq. Feet or 20.66 Guntas in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru comprising of Item Nos.1 to 9 mentioned below:

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 33 measuring East to West (65+66)/2 Feet and North to South 52' Feet totally measuring 3406 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Site No. 36
North by : Private Property — South by : Site No. 40

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 34 measuring East to West (66+67)/2 Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2660 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Private Property
North by : Site No. 35 — South by : Site No. 33

Item No. 3: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 35 measuring East to West (67+68)/2 Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2700 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Private Property
North by : Private Property — South by : Site No. 34

Item No. 4: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 36 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2080 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 41 — West by : Road
North by : Private Property — South by : Site No. 37

Item No. 5: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 37 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2080 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 40 — West by : Road
North by : Site No. 36 — South by : Site No. 38

Item No. 6: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 38 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 52' Feet totally measuring 2704 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 39 — West by : Road
North by : Site No. 37 — South by : Road

Item No. 7: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 39 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 52' Feet totally measuring 2704 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Site No. 38
North by : Site No. 40 — South by : Road

Item No. 8: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 40 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2080 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Site No. 37
North by : Site No. 41 — South by : Site No. 39

Item No. 9: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 41 measuring East to West 52' Feet and North to South 40' Feet totally measuring 2080 Sq. Feet situated at Sy. No. 25/1 in Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli 3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on:
East by : Road — West by : Site No. 36
North by : Private Property — South by : Site No. 40

Given under my hand seal of this Hon'ble Court on this 12th day of January 2026.
By the Order of the Court of the Hon'ble Civil Judge and JMFC, KR Puram, Bengaluru Rural.

Mr. Ajesh Kumar Shankar, Advocate,
Having Office at: **M/s. AKS Law Associates,** E-301, Sunrise Chambers, No. 22, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru - 560 042.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 30th December 2025

S. O. 6092(E). In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officer mentioned at column (4) in the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officer mentioned at column (5) in the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned at column (2) relating to districts mentioned at column (3) in the table below for Land Acquisition required for the public purpose.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 217 at Km: 359/500-600 in Ranebennur Yard	Haveri	Assistant Commissioner, Haveri	Regional Commissioner, Belagaum
2	Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 218 at km 362/100-200 in Ranebennur Yard	Haveri	Assistant Commissioner, Haveri	Regional Commissioner, Belagaum

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer, Construction - III, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/811/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
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629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru – 560061
Ph: 96536 10422; E-Mail: ubin0910422@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2)/8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

BORROWER(S) / GURANTOR(S) / MORTGAGOR(S)

(a) Mrs. Hemalata Chaudhary, Flat No. 188, Ground Floor, Gyan Khand 3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201301.
Also at: Plot No. 706 G1, Shakti Khand 3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201014.
Also at: Flat No. B-107, 'B' Block, 1st Floor, "NA CENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100.
Also at: Flat No. B-108, 'B' Block, 1st Floor, "NA CENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100.

Sale of property belonging to Mrs. Hemalata Chaudhary, for realization of amount due to Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Union Bank of India, (Uttarahalli Branch) Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru – 560061, the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated **04-02-2025** under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 6 / 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **08-05-2025.**

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after **30 days** from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in Sec. 13(8) of the Act.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential house property bearing Flat No. B-107, 'B' Block, 1st Floor, 'E' Khatha No. 150200103000520113, "NA CENTRAL HENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, E-Khatha No. 150200103000520052, PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, Previously Sy. No. 68/3, New Sy No. 139/5, situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100 measuring built up area of about 1025 sq feet consisting of 2 BHK, with proportionate undivided right in the common area and 1 covered car parking area in the basement area of the share 369.51 sq. ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the Schdule A property, the apartment having vitrified tile flooring, wooden doors and aluminium windows. The said apartment is bounded by: **East by:** Set back 6m wide of Sy No. 139/5; **West by:** Duct and Flat No. B-106; **North by:** Flat No. A-103; **South by:** Block B Corridor.

AND

All that piece and parcel of residential house property bearing Flat No. B-108, 'B' Block, 1st Floor, 'E' Khatha No. 150200103000520114, "NA CENTRAL HENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, E-Khatha No. 150200103000520052, PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, Previously Sy. No. 68/3, New Sy No. 139/5, situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100 measuring built up area of about 1010 sq feet consisting of 2 BHK, with proportionate undivided right in the common area and 1 covered car parking area in the basement area of the share 364.10 sq. ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the Schdule A property, the apartment having vitrified tile flooring, wooden doors and aluminium windows. The said apartment is bounded by: **East by:** Set back 6m wide of Sy No. 139/5; **West by:** Staircase & B Block Corridor; **North by:** Block B Corridor; **South by:** Set back 6m wide of Sy. No. 139/5 & Entrance Gate of 139/4.

Place: Uttarahalli
Date: 13-01-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

UTTARAHALLI BRANCH
629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru – 560061
Ph: 96536 10422; E-Mail: ubin0910422@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2)/8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

BORROWER(S) / GURANTOR(S) / MORTGAGOR(S)

(a) Mrs. Bharathi .R, No. 175, Vijay Classic, 3rd Cross, Central Excise Layout, Bhoopasandra, Bangalore - 560094.
Also at: Flat No. A-103, 'A' Block, 1st Floor, "NA CENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100.
Also at: Flat No. A-104, 'A' Block, 1st Floor, "NA CENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100.

Sale of property belonging to Mrs. Bharathi .R, for realization of amount due to Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Union Bank of India, (Uttarahalli Branch) Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru – 560061, the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated **04-02-2025** under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 6 / 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **08-05-2025.**

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after **30 days** from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in Sec. 13(8) of the Act.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential house property bearing Flat No. A-103, 'A' Block, 1st Floor, 'E' Khatha No. 150200103000520102, "NA CENTRAL HENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, E-Khatha No. 150200103000520052, PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, Previously Sy. No. 68/3, New Sy No. 139/5, situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100 measuring built up area of about 990 sq feet consisting of 2 BHK, with proportionate undivided right in the common area and 1 covered car parking area in the basement area of the share 356.89 sq. ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the Schdule A property, the apartment having vitrified tile flooring, wooden doors and aluminium windows. The said apartment is bounded by: **East by:** Open to Sky; **West by:** Duct and Flat No. A-104; **North by:** Block A Corridor and Staircase, **South by:** Duct and Flat No. A-107.

AND

All that piece and parcel of residential house property bearing Flat No. A-104, 'A' Block, 1st Floor, 'E' Khatha No. 150200103000520103, "NA CENTRAL HENTRAL HEIGHTS" Apartment, E-Khatha No. 150200103000520052, PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, Previously Sy. No. 68/3, New Sy No. 139/5, situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 100 measuring built up area of about 980 sq feet consisting of 2 BHK, with proportionate undivided right in the common area and 1 covered car parking area in the basement area of the share 353.29 sq. ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the Schdule A property, the apartment having vitrified tile flooring, wooden doors and aluminium windows. The said apartment is bounded by: **East by:** Duct and Flat No. A-104; **West by:** Duct and Flat No. A-105; **North by:** Block A Corridor and Staircase, **South by:** Duct and Flat No. A-106.

Place: Uttarahalli
Date: 13-01-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bangalore - 560001
Ph No. 25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II, Bangalore will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	Incremental Value at Bid
1. Smt. Eshwaramma **W/o Sanjeeva Raddy** Gundlaralahalli Village Kasaba Hobli Pavagada Taluk District: Tumkur-561202. **Also at:** **2. Smt. Eshwaramma** **W/o Sanjeeva Reddy** Sai Baba Temple Road Opposite Jnanabhodhini School Srinivasa Nagar Pawagada Taluk District: Tumkur—561202. **3. Sri G N Sanjeeva Reddy** **S/o Narasimhappa** Gundaralahalli Village Pavagada Taluk District: Tumkur-561202.	**Rs. 1,80,10,944.55/-** (Rupees One Crore Eighty Lakhs Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Four and Fifty Five paisa only) plus further interest thereon from 11.01.2026 along with expenses, other charges, etc.	All that piece and parcel of RCC House on site bearing Khatha No. 19/2, Property No. 192/2, Property No. 152500600800701567 locate at Gundlarahally village, Kasaba hobli, Pavagada taluk, Tumkur district. Measuring East-West 60 Feet and North to South 60 feet. Total extent of site 3600 Sq.ft and property **bounded as: East by:** Galli & Site of Venkatareddy **West by:** Site of D Rangappa **North by:** Road **South by:** Site of D Rangappa Owner of the Property: Smt.Eshwaramma	19.02.2026 01.00 PM. to 03.00 PM.	**Reserve Price:** Rs. 30.60 Lakhs **EMD:** Rs. 3.06 Lakhs on or before 18.02.2026	1) Multiplies of Rs. 10,000/- **Encumbrance(s):** Not Known to the Bank

Other terms and conditions

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website **https://baanknet.com/** Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer.
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details **on or before 18.02.2026,** to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
iii. Bid Form.
The intending bidders should register their names at portal **https://baanknet.com/** and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) - e- mail: **support.baanknet@psballiance.com**
EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
f. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in **multiples of Rs.10,000/-.**The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
g. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.
h. For sale proceeds of **Rs.50.00 Lakhs** (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
i. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
j. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
k. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
l. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.

For further details contact **Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2-** (9113092975, 8921102717, 9201460154, 9483544116, 8709675503 and 080-25310181) e-mail id – **cb6298@canarabank.com** OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) - e- mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 12.01.2026

SD/-,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

CACHE

If data is the new oil, what does that make data centres?

India is a reasonably high-risk candidate for 'data dumping'. This has raised environmental concerns over resource strains, emphasising the urgent need for sustainable development practices in the sector

Vasudevan Mukunth

Many think the idea of 'dumping' in global trade is a red herring. The reason is obvious: if country A is able to dump certain goods in country B, it's not because A has smuggled them in. It's because someone in country B was interested in receiving those goods, and B's laws allowed for them to be imported.

This said, it's possible to argue that dumping is a legitimate concern, and not a red herring, if a country's government and its people are at odds on a policy yet the government enforces it to pander to a few commercial interests – a situation not unheard of in modern democracies. India in particular has seen this often with its national and international commitments as well as its domestic priorities, ranging from including commercial plantations in forest surveys to pad afforestation numbers to importing oil for cultivating itself as a growth market for global fossil fuel producers forced to move away from richer countries that are decarbonising.

Careful planning: Conduits for fibre to connect superclusters of data centres are under construction during a tour of the OpenAI data centre in Abilene, Texas, U.S., on September 23, 2025. REUTERS

Good versus bad data centres

Today, data is the new oil, and it's possible the country is at similar risk of being 'dumped' with poorly designed data centres making inefficient use of energy, guzzling large quantities of water, and polluting the environment. To be sure, data centres are not implicitly bad and can be run efficiently, and in the larger scheme of things be a net benefit for the national economy.

But ensuring they have precisely that effect requires every data centre to be located in a place where power supply is reliable as well as where the project pays for required grid upgrades. The centre should also be designed for high utilisation, meaning the servers should not be idle; this requires properly estimating the capacity and scheduling workloads. Second, the centre must incorporate efficient cooling as a core component rather than as an afterthought, including in the form of efficient airflow management and allowing higher inlet temperatures within the established thermal envelopes and reducing the demand for mechanical cooling. In fact, where it's feasible, centres should also use naturally cool ambient air or water and, for intensive AI workloads, use liquid cooling. At the same time, they should minimise their dependence on potable water and use recycled water where available, and minimise the use of backup power. Finally, the data centre should measure every relevant parameter that it's expected to optimise over time.

Conversely, a bad data centre is often one that's efficient on paper but inefficient on the ground because it's been installed in the wrong place and/or with the wrong design. For instance, it could be located in a water-stressed area and be designed to use evaporative cooling, which requires a lot of water. Or it could be running older cooling setups without basic airflow controls, thus increasing the energy overhead.

Google's proposed Cerrillos data centre in Santiago, Chile, offers a real-world example. Local opposition to the project focused on the project's consequences on an increasingly water-stressed region. A Chilean environmental court subsequently required Google to account for the effects of climate change on the aquifer and to consider alternative cooling methods, causing the Big Tech company to switch to an air-cooled design.

Brooking resistance

India is widely cited as a market with great potential to host these facilities. While the U.S. is far ahead of India, it has also started to show outward signs of popular resistance to these facilities. India can learn from this to avoid taking on a bad proposition itself, especially when local governments are prepared to cut corners and developers try to hide behind opaque contracts.

Of late, a surge in proposals for data centres in the U.S. has met with organised local resistance, with municipal boards having to decide whether energy- and water-intensive facilities fit their zoning rules and residents anxious that the projects will endanger property values and local water supply. In North Carolina, a mayor signalling that a proposal for a data centre would fail unanimously, prompted developers to rescind it even after it promised environmentally friendly features. In another town in Minnesota, a proposal for a large data centre was put on hold after residents complained about the inadequacy of the environmental review. They said local officials and utilities had known about the proposal for nearly a year before disclosing it, with the secrecy intensifying the conflict.

Industry groups and consultants have said that such pushback is increasingly becoming the norm but that it has also been pushing developers to rethink how early and how transparently they need to engage communities.

Given these issues, it's salient that countries in the Global South have poor zoning in practice, a less than satisfactory record of governments involving community members in planning construction projects, lacklustre enforcement of environmental regulations, and aspirations of growth in the IT sector. When the capital for data centre projects faces sustained, organised resistance and local approval processes that are more participatory, it can be more tempting to look for jurisdictions where land is cheaper and political friction is lower. Data centres can't be dumped anywhere – they still need reliable power, network connections, minimally uncertain land titles, and geopolitical predictability – but it's possible the most resource-intensive and least locally beneficial ones could disproportionately target places where the costs can be more easily externalised. Many governments are in fact explicitly courting data centres as a part of their AI or IT industrialisation strategy through land and power concessions and expedited clearances. In India itself, multiple State policies offer sizable fiscal and infrastructure incentives and promise streamlined approvals.

Latin America like the U.S. has already had multiple disputes where communities have argued that governments advanced projects without proper environmental review, particularly in water-stressed areas. Many cases in Chile have been particularly emblematic, leading to vehemently contested litigation and protests. It hasn't helped that while data centres are capital-intensive, they're also relatively low on permanent jobs, leaving governments without one of their favourite bargaining chips.

Signs to watch for

India itself is a reasonably high-risk candidate for 'data dumping'. The country is actively positioning itself as a major data-centre hub and multiple independent forecasts have projected rapid capacity growth in this decade. JLL projected it would expand by around 77%, reaching 1.8 GW by 2028. Ratings agency CRISIL said it would increase to 2.3-2.5 GW by the end of the 2028 fiscal. Colliers has predicted that capacity is likely to surpass 4.5 GW by 2030. The policy environment is also swimming in incentives at present. Together with relative geopolitical stability and a large domestic market, India seems like a more credible market for global firms than many other alternatives.

Compounding the 'dumping' risk is the fact that the chief externalities are also unusually pronounced. Many basins and cities in the country are already highly water-stressed. The consequences of the power system are similarly non-trivial, with large, clustered loads requiring grid upgrades and clearer rules about which consumer type will pay what rate. And as for environmental regulation: the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Supreme Court, and the National Green Tribunal have all recorded several lacunae in institutional mechanisms, post-clearance monitoring, and in enforcing mitigation measures.

This doesn't mean India will inevitably become a dumping ground, however, for three reasons. First, hyperscale data centres still demand substantial grid capacity, substations, fibre-optic routes, etc. so they can't be set up to the exclusion or ignorance of what the existing system can handle, which in turn could force public sector coordination even in areas with weak zoning. Second, India has relatively strong judicial and tribunal pathways compared to many peer states. Even if they're imperfect and often slow, they've been known to create credible deterrence pressure.

Third, India has strong and vocal civil society organisations. Given that the answer is not to ban data centres but for developers to engage with local governments and communities at a very early stage of the project, here are some signs of potentially bad governance that civilians can watch for:

(i) Incentives that race to the bottom: this includes large land and power subsidies, accelerated permits, exemptions from routine building and environmental processes, and loose sustainability requirements. Zoning rules must designate data centres as heavy infrastructure and must come with buffer areas and noise limits.

(ii) When a jurisdiction adds large power loads quickly without clear rules about costs, data centres can avoid paying for upgrades to the grid and instead push that expense to households. Data centres must disclose the expected peak load, their water sources, method of cooling, and times of day when they use backup generators. There must also be rules to keep households from cross-subsidising.

(iii) Situating facilities in arid or seasonally stressed areas can significantly worsen the stress if each facility doesn't also have a binding water budget and contingency plans in the public domain. Each data centre should have a water use ceiling that's derived from the conditions of the local basin, including for non-potable or waterless cooling requirements.

(iv) Finally, beware non-disclosure agreements involving public utilities, disclosure windows, shell entities or environmental filings that are hard to access. There must be a public registry that records audits and incidents.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "raison d'etre?" (Jamuna Visvanath, Bangalore)

This is a French expression and it literally means "reason for existing". The "rai" in the first word "raison" is pronounced like the word "ray". The "s" sounds like the "z" in words like "zip", "zoo" and "zero". The "on" is pronounced like the word "on". The "d'et" in the second word "d'etre" rhymes with the words "bet", "get", and "set". The "r" sounds like the "r" in words like "rat", "ran" and "ram". Some dictionaries maintain that the final "e" is silent, while others claim that it is pronounced like the 'a' in "China", "about" and "account". The main stress is on the first syllable of "d'etre". It must be mentioned here that this is the pronunciation given in most English dictionaries. It is quite possible that native speakers of French pronounce the two words differently. The raison d'etre of someone is the main reason for his/her existence. Here are a few examples:

When they were newly married, Kamlesh was Raju's raison d'etre.

After his wife died, his children became his raison d'etre.

For many politicians in our country, making money is their raison d'etre.

Manjula claims that her work is her raison d'etre.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "Nobody help me" or "Nobody helps me". (K. V. Artanth, Shimoga, Karnataka)

The word "nobody" is considered singular, so it usually takes a singular verb. "Nobody helps me" is the correct answer. Here are a few more examples:

There is nobody in my class who is interested in tennis.

Nobody was willing to listen to what the Principal had to say.

It's a pity that nobody visits such beautiful places.

Which is correct? Ten million or ten millions? (R. Sruti, Mambalam, Chennai)

"Ten million" is the correct answer. The rule is fairly simple. When the words "hundred", "thousand", and "million" are preceded by a number, then the words remain in their singular form. In other words, when an exact number is specified, an 's' is not added to these words. Here are few examples:

900 million people live in India. He paid 20 million for the painting. Twenty thousand employees will be laid off.

"Million", "hundred" and "thousand" take the plural form when they are not preceded by a numeral or by "a". For example: Millions of people live in India. He paid millions for the painting. The Chairman said that thousands of employees will be laid off.

But when we use the words "crore" and "lakh", the same set of rules don't seem to apply; especially when the reference is to money. For example, it is quite common to hear people in India say: I hope to get 20 lakhs for the car. He bought the painting for 50 lakhs. They found three crores in the Minister's house. Ram makes two crores a year.

Perhaps the rules don't apply to numbers of Indian origin!

Published in The Hindu on April 13, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Israel recognised Somaliland as an independent state and separatist factions renewed calls for the re-establishment of South Yemen. A quiz on the two breakaway regions

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
By legitimising the Somaliland administration, Israel is said to be pursuing which two strategic objectives, according to geopolitical pundits?

QUESTION 2
Yemen's main separatist group, the STC, is backed by which West Asian country? Name its leader who recently fled the country?

QUESTION 3
The modern political identity of Somaliland traces back to this moment of sovereignty in 1960. What was the movement?

QUESTION 4
Before unification in 1990, South Yemen was the only Marxist country in the Arab world. What was its official name?

QUESTION 5
In which year did Somaliland unilaterally declare independence?

QUESTION 6
Which 2019 accord sought to reconcile southern separatists with Yemen's internationally recognised government through a power-sharing deal?

Visual question:
Which ancient site in Somaliland's capital is known for its exceptionally well-preserved rock art, estimated to be around 5,000 years old? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Swami Vivekananda played this instrument proficiently. **Ans: Pakhawaj**
2. Before meeting Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, Vivekananda was deeply influenced by this reform movement. **Ans: Brahmo Samaj**
3. The suggestion Ajit Singh of Khetri asked Vivekananda to embrace. **Ans: Change his name to Vivekananda**
4. Narendranath and other disciples decided to make a new math after the passing of Sri Ramakrishna here. **Ans: Baranagar**
5. This three-word Mahavakya (Great Saying) formed the metaphysical backbone of Vivekananda's understanding of Advaita Vedanta. **Ans: 'Tat tvam asi' ('Thou art That')**
6. This was unusual about Vivekananda's prediction about his own death. **Ans: He predicted that he won't cross 40 and he died at 39**
Visual: Name this visionary and the institution he started. **Ans: Jamsetji Tata and Indian Institute of Science**
Early Birds: Suchit Narottam| Arun Kumar Singh| Ambarin Aslam| Sadhan Panda| Gaurav Deshmukh

Word of the day

Homily:
a sermon on a moral or religious topic

Synonym: preachment

Usage: *The priest gave a brief homily on faith.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/homilypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈhɒmɪli/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Namo Venkatesha wins film literary award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namo Venkatesha, a collection of articles on 20 selected films written by senior journalist Raghunath Cha. Ha. has been selected for the State Annual Film Literary Award for the calendar year 2020.

The book was published by Annapoorna Prakashana, Sirigeri, Ballari district. The Department of Information and Public Relations on Monday announced the awards for the calendar years 2020 and 2021 in Bengaluru.

The selection committee for the 2020 award was chaired by Hemanth M. Nimbalkar, Commissioner of the Department of Information and Public Relations, with senior journalists Rajashekar Hatagundi and Basavaraj Megalakere as members. For the 2021 calendar year, the film literature award has been conferred on *Antarangada Anna*, a book on the life of Dr. Rajkumar, authored by writer and film director Prakashraj Mehu.

The book was published by Sirigandha Prakashana, Bengaluru.

The selection committee for 2021 comprised noted litterateur Chidananda Sali and journalist Sharanu Hullur.

Transferred

BENGALURU The Sate government on Monday has issued an order transferring Ibrahim Maigur, Director (IT), Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, with immediate effect.

He has been posted as Director, Horticulture and Director, National Horticulture Mission, Bengaluru.

This relieves Patil Yalagouda Shivanagouda from the concurrent charge.

Disruption in power supply today

BENGALURU There will be disruption in power supply on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The affected areas are HRBR 1st, 2nd and 3rd Blocks, Service Road, Kammanahalli Main Road, C.M.R. Road, Babusapalya, Balachandra Layout, Flower Garden, M.M. Garden, Arkavathy layout, Anjanadri Layout, Divya Unnaty Layout, Vijayendra Garden, Mallappa Layout, Prakruthi Township, Balaji Layout, Chelekere, Subbayanapalya, Horamavu, Munireddy Layout, Vijya Bank Colony, and surrounding areas.

Fraudster impersonates DCP, demands money from inspector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division Cyber Crime Police have launched a manhunt for a conman who allegedly impersonated the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Division, and called a police inspector demanding money.

The fraud came to light on Friday after the inspector of the S.J. Park police station received a message containing the photograph of the DCP from an unknown mobile number, seeking money. The message falsely projected the sender as DCP Akshay M. Hakay.

Suspecting foul play, the inspector contacted the DCP directly and shared screenshots of the message. Upon verification, it was confirmed that the message had been sent by an impostor.

Taking cognisance of the incident, Mr. Hakay first lodged an online complaint and later filed a formal complaint with the Cybercrime police, seeking legal action against the offender.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR, and further investigation is under way.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: contracts@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Date: 13.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, the General Manager (Contracts) invites open e-tenders through the CPP Portal from eligible applicants who meet the prescribed Eligibility-cum-Qualification Criteria (EQC) for the following works in Phase-3 of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Notification No.	Tender Fee (Incl. of GST)	Amount in INR		Tender Documents available on CPP Portal	Tender Submission Date and Time (Online)	Date & Time of opening of Tender (Technical Bid - Online)
				Estimated cost of Work	Tender Security			
1.	**Package-1:** Construction of Elevated structures (Metro Viaduct, Rail cum Road Flyover & Stations) for a length of 6.521 Km excluding JP Nagar 4th Phase station from Ch: -0.330 Km to Ch: +6.326 Km and 4 Nos of Elevated Double Decker Metro Stations (central portion) viz. JP Nagar 5th Phase, JP Nagar, Kadirenahalli and Kamakya Junction including Normal Viaduct for a length of 826m and Rail cum Road Flyover for a Length of 5695m, Loops and Ramps, Demolition of Dollars Colony Junction Flyover, Road widening, Utility diversion and other allied works of Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, Phase 3".	BMRCL/ Ph-3/Double Decker/ P1/2026/143	Rs. 59,000/-	1375.66 Cr	13.76 Cr	13.01.2026 to 25.02.2026	20.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 (up to 3:00 PM)	27.02.2026 at 11:30 AM
2.	**Package-2:** Construction of Elevated structures (Metro Viaduct, Rail cum Road Flyover & Stations) for a length of 5.408 Km from Ch: +6.326 Km to Ch: +11.734 Km and 4 Nos of Elevated Double Decker Metro Stations (central portion) Hoskerehalli , Dwaraka Nagar, Mysore Road and Nagarbhavi Circle including Rail cum Road Flyover for a Length of 5408m, Loops and Ramps, Road widening, Utility diversion and other allied works of Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, Phase 3".	BMRCL/ Ph-3/Double Decker/ P2/2026/144	Rs. 59,000/-	1396.10 Cr	13.96 Cr	13.01.2026 to 25.02.2026	20.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 (up to 03:00 PM)	27.02.2026 at 12:30 PM
3.	**Package-3:** "Construction of Elevated structures (Metro Viaduct, Rail cum Road Flyover & Stations) for a length of approx. 6.652 Km (5.012 Km in Corridor-1 & 1.64 Km in Corridor-2) from Ch: +11.734 Km to Ch: +16.746 Km in Corridor-1 and from Ch: +4.620 Km to Ch: +6.260 Km in Corridor 2 and 3 Nos of Elevated Double Decker Metro Stations (Central Portion) viz . Vinayaka Layout, Papareddy Palya, BDA Complex Nagarbhavi in Corridor-1 and 1 No. of Elevated Station (Single Decker) at Sunkadakatte in Corridor-2 and Rail cum Road Flyover for a Length of 5328m including Depot Entry line (1.217 Km) from Corridor-1 to Sunkadakatte Depot and Corridor-2 to Sunkadakatte Depot and Depot Exit line, Loops and Ramps, Road widening, Utility diversion and other allied works of Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, Phase 3".	BMRCL/ Ph-3/Double Decker/ P3/2026/145	Rs. 59,000/-	1415.65 Cr	14.16 Cr	13.01.2026 to 25.02.2026	20.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 (up to 03:00 PM)	27.02.2026 at 3:30 PM

For further details, visit e-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app from: 13.01.2026,** while the Notice Inviting Tender will be accessible on the BMRCL website **(www.bmrc.co.in).**

Sd/- General Manager (Contracts)

District Mineral Foundation Trust
Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122
Tele: 06764-230745/E- mail: dmfangul@gmail.com
Development and Welfare of Mining Affected Areas & People

Notice No. 82 **Corrigendum Notice** Date : 12/01/2026

Ref.: EoI No. - 1099 / DMFT dated 20.12.2025.

The details of the corrigendum / revision made in the terms & conditions of the EoI for **" Empanelment of Central /State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for carrying out various civil works executed by District Administration, Angul under DMFT Angul"** have been issued. Interested PSUs are requested to download the EoI documents and corrigendum notice from the website: **www.angul.odisha.gov.in**. The last date for receipt of the bid document is **10.02.2026 (05.30 P.M.)**. Documents are to be submitted through Speed Post / Registered Post (India Post) only.

CAD-2993: **Collector & Chairperson-cum-Managing Trustee, DMFT, Angul**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.
e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for the Provision of Driving and Fare Collection Services to operate regular bus operation as per the Region wise and Depot wise for Conductors at respective e-bus depots from the eligible tenderers who shall submit documentary evidence on behalf of the Managing Director in the Government e-procurement web portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

Sl. No.	Description	E.M.D Amount for each requirement of services
1.	Provision of Driving Services (Drivers) to operate regular Bus Operation at region wise of MTC (Chennai) Ltd	**Rs.3,00,000/-**
2.	Provision of Fare collection person (Conductors) services to Operate regular Bus operation at region wise of MTC (Chennai) Ltd	**Rs.3,00,000/-**
3.	Provision of Fare collection person (Conductors) services to Operate regular Bus operation at respective e-bus depots of MTC (Chennai) Ltd	**Rs.2,50,000/-**

Last date for submission of tender : **Upto 14.30 Hrs on 17.02.2026**
Date of opening : **At 15.00 Hrs on 17.02.2026**

EMD and other Tender related details is available in Government e-portal website **(https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app).** Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

DIPR/184/TENDER/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice Number:
NO: SSSCT/PROJECTS/25-26/032 DATED 08-01-2026

Construction of Hostel for Students at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur Campus- Phase-1- Civil Structural Works.

For Tender Decuments visit:
https://tenders.sssct.org//Structural_Work_of_at_ATP_Hostel_SSSIHL_PSN.pdf

Last Date for Submission of Tender is 22nd January 2026

SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL, PRASANTHI NILAYAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of General Public that my client M/s. Srinidhi Trinity Infra LLP has negotiated to purchase several lands in Kaniminike Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South District mentioned here under. Sy. No. 43/2(Old No. 43) measuring 1 Acre 2 Guntas from its absolute owner Sri. N. Sugumar bounded by **East**: Property of Rubarani,West:property of Gowdaih, **North:** Road, **South:** Property of Annapurna (Sy.No.43/1) and Sy. No. 43/3(Old No. 43) measuring 1 Acre including 2 Guntas of kharab from Smt. N. Rubarani W/o Late A. Nagarajan, N. Kamal Hasan S/o Late A. Nagarajan and A. Sugumar S/o Late A. Nagarajan (Joint holders) Bounded by East:Mathivannan (Sy.No.43/4), **West:** Sugumar (Sy.No.43/2) **North:** Road, **South** :Annapurna (sy. No. 43/1) and Sy. No. 43/4(Old No. 43) measuring 0-22 Guntas from its absolute owner Sri. G. Mathivanan bounded by **North:** Road, South: Annapurna, **East:** Road, West: Ruba Rani B

Any person/s having any right, claim or interest, whatsoever over the above described survey numbers shall lodge their objections/claims with relevant documents, to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this publication, after which our client will proceed with further transactions to purchase the schedule property and no claims will be entertained after the said period.

With digital signed by
Srinivasa S.N, Advocate
No.30, 1st Floor, 5th Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009,
Ph.No. 90083 00611

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 31/2025–26/3001–05 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09–01–2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 3 & 4 ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1–ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 29109) ಮತ್ತು 4059–80–051–0–60–132 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇತರೆ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 15–ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 31481, 31349, 31336, 31636, 31667, 31614, 31396, 31598, 31707, 31692, 31720, 31771, 31783, 32079, 32090) ಒಟ್ಟು 16 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 78.20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 254.25 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–01–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/5923 DATE: 12/01/2026

Short Term Tender and E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short Term Tender and e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 5 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP and 1 work under head of account 5054-SH Improvements, Totally 6 No. of works. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 80.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 316.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date: 27-01-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 29-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 31-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 02-02-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1625/KSMCA/2025-26

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023.
Tel.: 080-2955 7021, e-mail : pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/CST/07/2025-26 Date:09.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

Tender (two cover) are invited for Transportation of Blood samples from selected ART centers to Designated Viral Labs through e-procurement. Tender terms & conditions are available in e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of Tender on e-procurement platform **on or before: 02/02/2026 upto 5:30 pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/JA/4977/2025-26 **Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society.**

PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Zilla Panchayath Tumkur, P.R.E.D. Division, Tumkur.

No.: E.E./PRED/TMK/TND NO. : 16/25-26/1952 Date: 12-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. : 16/25-26 DATE : 12-01-2026
K.P.P. Procurement Tender Notice (Single & Two Cover System)

The Tender is inviting through K.P.P. Procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the **Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur, 2025-26 CMIDP (Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme)** Works, 2024-25 PM SHREE Scheme as per KTTP Act 2000.

The Tender Documents can be Obtained from the K.P.P. Procurement Website : and Submit the details on Dated 12-01-2026 to 27-01-2026 upto 5.00 p.m.

Indent No : 1) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22878, 2) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22865, 3) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22869, 4) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 22826, 5) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22871, 6) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22872, 7) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22874, 8) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22875, 9) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22876 10) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22877, 11) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22879, 12) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22880, 13) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22881, 14) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22882, 15) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22883, 16) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22884, 17) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22885, 18) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 22808, 19) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22807, 20) RDPR/ 2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 22806, 21) RDPR/ 2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22804, 22) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22809, 23) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22791).

Further details can be obtained through Website at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during Office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Tumkur.

DIPR/Ramanagar/66/Manipal/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU

Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(37E): 2025-26:JE-1 Dated: 12.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION / (Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 24571 (Est.Amount Rs.50.00 Lakhs) under the **Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 State Highway Roads Improvements.** The Last date for reciept of **tender: 27.01.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. **Contact No: 0824-2423169.**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1395/25-26 dt.12.01.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

INNOVATE KARNATAKA **K-tech**

TENDER NOTICE

The Karnataka Technology Innovation Museum Foundation (KTIMF), a public private partnership setup by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology (ITBT), Govt of Karnataka invites bids from eligible and experienced firms/consortiums for the Selection of Design and Technical Agency (DTA) for Master-planning, Architectural Design, Exhibition Design and Project Management Consultancy for the twin projects of Museum of Innovation, Startup & Technology (MIST) and Innoverse at Bengaluru.

Bid Documents download: 13th January 2026, 12 noon onwards (from KTIMF Website **www.ktimf.com**).

Pre-bid Meeting: 21st January 2026, 15:00 hrs. Virtual only.

Last date for submission of bids in KTIMF Website: 10th February 2026 (Online) & 12th February 2026 (Physical submission in sealed copy) Both mandatory.

Interested bidders are advised to refer to the Request for Proposal (RFP) available on the KTIMF Website (www.ktimf.com) for Prebid dates, Detailed eligibility criteria, Selection process, Project Specifications, Scope of work and other terms & conditions.

KARNATAKA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION (KTIMF)
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-2223-1006/8
E-mail: tenders@ktimf.com

DIPR/CP/4993/AKAR/2025-26

University Of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
NAAC A' Accredited,
Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.

No. EO/SPO/kppp/14/2025-26 Dated: 09-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **19.01.2026 at 11:30 a.m.** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **24.01.2026 upto 4:00 p.m.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **27.01.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **29.01.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee Room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS **website: www.usabangalore.edu.in. Help Desk- 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RO4978/AAPL/2025-26 **ESTATE OFFICER**

Water Resource Department
(Minor Irrigation)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District. E-Mail: eemidklr@rediffmail.com, eemigwddkolar@gmail.com, Landline No: 08152-200049

No:EE/MI/Kol/TA/AE/Tender Notification/2250/2025-26/ Dtd:06.01.2026

Short term tender notification no: 23/2025-26 / Dtd:06.01.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system for the 08 number of works. The tender procedure as per Rule of KTPP Act and standard tender document KW-3 (08 work) shall be followed for Maximum amount of Rs. 100.00 Lakhs & Minimum amount of Rs. 75 Lakhs under the HOA SCP & TSP. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in starts from **Dt:09.01.2026 04:30 PM.** Uploading tender documents upto **Dt:17.01.2026 04:30 PM.** Opening of technical bid **Dt:19.01.2026 @ 04:30 PM.** The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water, Development Division, Kolar.
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:440/KSMCA/2025-26

Govt. cannot cite Labour Codes to put on hold revision of minimum wages in Karnataka: Trade unions

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government is yet to notify minimum wages for over 1.77 crore workers in 84 scheduled employment, the trade unions have urged the government to implement fresh wages, citing clauses in the new Labour Codes.

While the State government is bound by the Minimum Wages Act to revise wages once in at least five years, it has been nine years since wages were revised in the State. Though the draft wages have been notified in April 2025, the government is yet to take a decision. The final decision, it is learnt, is with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Labour Department sources said a meeting with the Chief Minister earlier scheduled was cancelled, and it is expected to be rescheduled soon.

The current wage revision cycle was initiated in 2022, but has not moved forward. In April 2025, the Labour Department had notified draft revision in a range from about ₹19,000 to about ₹31,000 per month, which has been opposed by the employers. They have knocked on the doors of the Karnataka High Court, but to no avail.

While the State government is bound by the Minimum Wages Act to revise wages once in at least five years, it has been nine years since wages were revised in Karnataka. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Though the notification of four Labour Codes in November by the Centre was cited by the employers as the reason against implementing the minimum wages, it is now learnt that the trade unions have – citing some clauses under the new Labour Codes – urged the government to go ahead and implement the revised wages.

"The Labour Codes do not put a hold on the revision of minimum wages in Karnataka," argued Joint Committee of Trade Unions, an umbrella organisation of 11 trade unions, in a letter to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on December 24, 2025.

The JCTU has pointed out that Sections under Code on Wages "do not erase the past operations, rights, liabilities, penalties, or ongoing legal proceedings", underlining the fact that revision process was already under way in Karnataka.

Under the Code on Wages, the power of removing difficulties cited under Section 68 and repeal and savings clauses in Section 69 have been cited as opportunities for the government to ensure that the process of revision of minimum wages is not stalled. Further, Section 6 of General Clauses Act, 1897, that deals with the "effect of repeal", has been given as the reason why the ongoing process need not stop.

The minimum wages revision in Karnataka has been hanging fire for over three years now. The first revision where the wage revision in the range between 5% and 10% was decided by the BJP Government in 2022 was stuck down by the Karnataka High Court. The new wage revision, draft of which was published in April 2025, was based on the Supreme Court laid down guidelines in the famous Reptakos Brett case, which has been opposed by the employers.

MGNREGA: 'People hit by changes will force Centre to reverse it'

Attacking the Centre for changing the structure and name of Act, Kharge says it is a 'conspiracy to deprive the rural poor of their right to work'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Drawing a parallel between farm laws and the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, which has replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that resistance by those affected by it will force Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reverse it too. "When Mr. Modi imposed anti-farmer laws, we opposed. He did not listen to us. He bent only after farmers united and protested and withdrew the laws. The altered MGNREGA will face the same fate," he said, addressing a public meeting at Yedrami in Kalaburagi district.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressing a public meeting at Yedrami in Kalaburagi district on Monday. ARUN KULKARNI

'Snatching livelihood'

Attacking the Union government for changing the structure and name of MGNREGA, Mr. Kharge said the move was a "conspiracy to deprive the rural poor of their right to work and livelihood."

Mr. Kharge said MGNREGA, introduced by the Congress-led UPA government, was aimed at guaranteeing employment to rural families when agricultural work was unavailable.

"Now, Mr. Modi and the BJP are snatching their bread. They speak volumes about poverty and the poor, while silently pushing policies that hurt them," he said.

Mr. Kharge said the Centre had reduced its funding share for MGNREGA from 90% to 60%, forcing States to bear a higher burden. "Earlier, local bodies decided what works were needed in their villages. Now the Modi government will decide everything from Delhi. This is an attack on decentralisation and people's empowerment," he said, warning that changes to the job scheme must be withdrawn.

Religion and polls

Launching an attack on the Prime Minister, Mr. Kharge accused Mr. Modi of using religion for electoral gains. He alleged that the Prime Minister's recent focus on religious events, including references to the Somnath temple, was driven by upcoming Assembly elections in States such as Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry.

Warning against what he described as an assault on constitutional values, Mr. Kharge said, "As long as people do not unite and teach a lesson to the BJP, attacks on the Constitution will continue. If constitutional rights are taken away, you will not even be allowed to speak freely."

He appealed to people to resist divisive politics, saying, "This is Kalyana Karnataka, the land of Basavanna and social equality. Politics of religious division will not work here."

Teacher shortage

The Congress president raised concern over teacher shortages in Kalyana Karnataka, saying that government schools existed without adequate subject teachers.

"Buildings alone do not educate children; teachers do. The poor cannot send their children to private schools in cities. The State government should first fill teaching vacancies in Kalyana Karnataka, then look elsewhere," he said, turning to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar who were also on the stage.

CM, Dy. CM will be called to Delhi 'when necessary', says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who are involved in the leadership tussle, will be called to Delhi for discussions "whenever necessary", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday.

Mr. Kharge's response came to a question from presspersons on when the Congress high command would call both for talks. "Whenever its is necessary, the party will call them," he said.

'Created locally'

Earlier, Mr. Kharge had said that the leadership issue had been "created locally" and not by the high command.

It is also learnt that Mr. Shivakumar also met Mr. Kharge on Monday to discuss political developments.

The Congress president's remarks came amid the leadership row as Mr. Shivakumar is pushing the party leadership to elevate him based on an agreement for rotation of power while Mr. Siddaramaiah is seeking to reshuffle the Cabinet that could consolidate his position as the Chief Minister.

After Sankranti

Speculation is rife in Congress circles that Mr. Shivakumar and his followers could mount a serious challenge to Mr. Siddaramaiah post-Sankranti festival.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar will be going to Delhi on January 16 in connection with a meeting convened over the Assam elections. He has been appointed a senior observer for the polls there.

BJP petitions Governor on 'criminalisation' of police and deterioration of law and order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of BJP senior leaders on Monday petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking his intervention into what they called "alarming deterioration of law and order in the State and the growing criminalisation as well as politicisation of the police force".

The delegation that comprised Leaders of the Opposition in both the legislature Houses R. Ashok and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy among others urged the Governor to take immediate steps to address the breakdown of law and order and the alleged rampant corruption within the police department.

Cases against police

Pointing out that 236 policemen have been suspended for criminal activities, and 42 police personnel are facing criminal cases, the BJP delegation maintained that these were not isolated incidents. "They are a pointer to a systemic failure of discipline, supervision, and accountability," it alleged and said such revelations had shaken public confidence in the police department.

A BJP delegation comprising Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses R. Ashok and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Monday.

The delegation further alleged, "Under the pretext of abusive social media posts or participation in protests against failures of the State government, cases are being indiscriminately booked against Opposition workers, clearly aimed at harassment, intimidation, and silencing dissenting voices. As a result, freedom of speech and freedom of political activity are under serious threat in Karnataka, which is wholly contrary to the spirit of the Constitution."

The BJP delegation also sought the Governor's intervention with respect to the handling of the Ballari violence episode in which a Congress worker died in firing in the clash in front of MLA G. Janardhana Reddy's house.

Hate speech Bill

The BJP leader also appealed to the Governor to withhold his assent to the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill or reserve it under Article 200 to uphold constitutional supremacy, federalism and democratic pluralism.

In the petition, the BJP termed the Bill as a "weapon to silence constructive criticism, dissent and any criticism against the ruling party."

New South Wales University to open Bengaluru campus in Aug.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of New South Wales (UNSW), one of Australia's leading universities, will open its campus in Bengaluru at Manyata Tech Park in August this year.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday in the presence of Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil and Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar. At a programme held at the Vidhana Soudha, UNSW Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs and Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar exchanged the MoU.

Initially, the university will offer undergraduate programmes in commerce, media, computer science and data science, along with a postgraduate programme in cyber security, the Ministers said.

Mr. Patil said the academic council of UNSW would directly oversee the Bengaluru campus, with the same curriculum taught here as at the parent university.

State govt. notifies social boycott Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2025, was published in the gazette by the State government on Monday, following assent given by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

The Act, which comes into effect, seeks to prohibit social boycott of a person or a group of persons including their family members, and imposes stringent punishment on the offenders.

Social boycott has been defined as a gesture or an act, whether oral or written, of any social discrimination.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client **Mrs Shalini** D/o Late S. Seshasayanan and her brother Mr.Shashidharan, W/o. Late S Seshasayanan are the joint owners of the schedule mentioned property who have succeeded their father Late S Seshasayanan and Mother Mrs. K.Prema to the schedule mentioned property.

Mrs. Shalini D/o. Late. S.Seshasayanan or her brother Mr. Shashidharan, S/o Late S Sesha sayanan do not have any lawful right or title to deal with the property individually on their own in any manner, anybody dealing so with them individually shall be doing so on their own risk and cost

SCHEDULE

All that piece part and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing no. 13/1, Ground Floor, Kashiviswanath Temple Street, Vannarpet, Bangalore -560047,

Land measuring

East to West : 25'-00 Feet,
North to South : 28'-00 Feet

Bounded As Follows:

East by : Cross Road.
West by : Property belonging to late Madurai Muthu.
North by : Property of S. Kannabhiran.
South by : Property of Philomina Raju.

J. Ravindran B.A, LL.B. Advocate
#310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore -560047 Mob : 9900609429,
E-mail : ravindran_jurist@yahoo.co.in

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-14/4608-10 Date: 09.01.2026

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No.**KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-14/Call-3, Dated: 09.09.2025** for **"The work of Upgradation of protection system at 220kV station, BWSSB, Tataguni, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru on Turnkey Basis on Percentage Basis"** pertains to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.01.2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec.,),
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South , KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/
Dt. 07-01-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 08 works comprising of approved Building works under 2024-25 Flood 5054 through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18246/CALL-2

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 14-01-2026 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 07-01-2026 to 14-01-2026 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 16-01-2026 at 10.30 AM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/897/KSMCA/2025-26

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು & ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕುರ್ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ್, ಯು.ಬಿ. ಹಿಲ್ಸ್ ರೋಡ್, ಧಾರವಾಡ – 580 001,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 9880253703, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : rwsddwd@rediffmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ.&ನೈ.ವಿ./ಧಾ./ಸ ಇಂ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/1493
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–01–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಪತ್ರದಡಿ **ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 1) Hiring of Technical Consultants on Outsource Basis, 2) Providing Manpower Service to RDW&S Division Dharwad and Sub-Division Dharwad, Hubli, Kalaghatagi, Kundgol, Navaglund, District Dharwad, 3) Empanelment of Third-Party Inspection Agency under Jal Jeevan Mission and other works by Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Dharwad District in Karnataka. (2026) ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.**

ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : Works Indent No. : 1) RWSSD/2025-26/SE0800, 2) RWSSD/2025-26/SE0799, 3) RWSSD/2025-26/SE0802. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ : 0.86 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ : 74.67 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಕ್ರಮದ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ. (Calander of Events)
1) ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಬಿ–ಗಳನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–01–2026 ರಿಂದ 20–01–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–01–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ.

ಸದರಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂತಿಮ ಹೆಸರು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ; kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ, ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ & ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1092/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY
PUDUCHERRY

No.13/PM/EE/DB/2025-26 Dated: 12.01.2026

PRESS NOTICE FOR 'e' TENDER

On behalf of the Pondicherry Municipal Council, e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors / firms by the Commissioner, Pondicherry Municipality, Puducherry for the work of '**Modernization of Food Street at Beach near Gandhi Thidal, Puducherry**" which can be downloaded from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in**, only by those contractors who are having valid i-key and Digital Signature Certificate. The detailed procedure is available in the said tender notice.

i. **Availability of NIT from 11.30 A.M. on 14.01.2026 to 4.00 P.M on 28.01.2026**
Closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 P.M on the same day of last date of availability of NIT.
ii. **Pre-bid meeting : 21.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M.**
iii. **Date & Time of opening of tender : 28.01.2026 at 4.30 P.M.**

Please contact ICICI Bank for e- payment helpdesk guidance in Phone No. 8939202113.

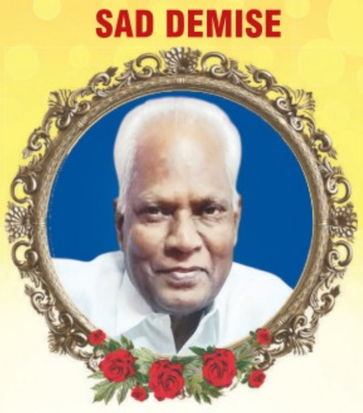
Please contact e-procurement cell, 3rd floor, Chief Secretariat, e-tender help desk for guidance in phone No. 0413-2220225 & 1800 3070 2232 (Toll free) mail id : support-eproc.pon.nic.in

No.721/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-2026 **COMMISSIONER**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved father,

MR. D. SATHIASEELAN

on 11/01/2026.

A devoted husband, father, and friend, he will be remembered always in our hearts.

He is survived by

His Wife and Daughter

A BG-BGE

HC slams Devaswom Board over missing gold at Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Coming down heavily on the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the Kerala High Court on Monday asked what role the Board had played, if all major responsibilities were entrusted to businessman Unnikrishnan Potti, prime accused in the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

A single Bench of Justice A. Badharudeen was hearing arguments by the prosecution that the gold plating of, among others, the door frames and that of the Dwarapalaka idols had been entrusted to him. The court wondered why such important works were entrusted to a single individual.

The court was hearing bail pleas of former TDB president A. Padmakumar, Bellary-based gold merchant Govardhan, and former executive officer of Sabarimala Murari Babu arraigned as accused in the case.

Questioning the TDB role, the court asked, "Then what is the duty of the Devaswom Board? It is as good as having no Devaswom Board..."

The High Court also flayed the SIT for not arresting K.P. Sankara Das, an accused in the case. "A person has been admitted to a hospital ever since he was arraigned as an accused in the case. His son is a Superintendent of Police. What is happening in this State? I completely disagree with the investigating officer," the court said.

Kerala CM leads stir against Centre's policies, slams bias

Pinarayi Vijayan says Centre is trying to hinder the State's progress; V.D. Satheesan flays State government for displaying meekness before the Prime Minister and Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Pinarayi Vijayan along with M.V. Govindan and CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam during a protest on Monday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the day-long 'Satyagraha' organised by Kerala's ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) on Monday against the policies of the BJP-led Union government as a "fight for survival" in an "extraordinary situation" where the State was being discriminated against and denied its rightful share of financial resources and support.

The protest, inaugurated by Mr. Vijayan, saw participation by Ministers, Left MLAs and senior LDF leaders. Accusing the Centre of adopting a biased and vengeful attitude towards Kerala, Mr. Vijayan said the State is demanding only what is constitutionally eligible to it. Through its policies, the Centre was trying to hinder the State's progress, he alleged.

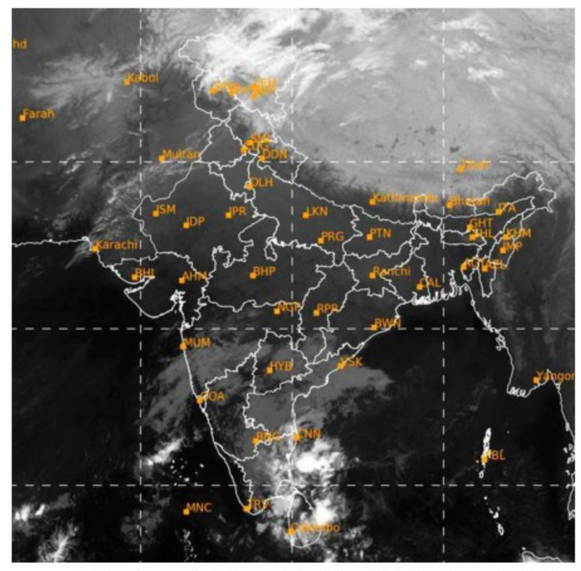
Responding to remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Mr. Vijayan said the latter's dreams will not materialise in Kerala. Contrary to Mr. Shah's claims, Kerala's tax share has dipped during the 15th Finance Commission period compared to the 14th.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said on Monday that the Opposition United Democratic Front cannot collaborate with the LDF on any protest.

Kerala has a Chief Minister and a government that display meekness before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. The State government is deceiving the people by claiming to be agitating against the Centre, when, in reality, it is acquiescing to the demands made by Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah, he alleged.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Dense to very dense fog likely at isolated places over Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.6	12.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	23.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.7	14.8	Kurnool	—	31.6	20.8
Aizawl	—	22.4	11.4	Lucknow	—	21.6	6.2
Allahabad	—	22.6	9.4	Madurai	—	31.2	21.5
Bengaluru	—	25.1	18.0	Mangaluru	—	33.6	22.5
Bhopal	—	26.8	9.0	Mumbai	—	34.0	17.2
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	12.3	Mysuru	—	27.0	13.8
Chandigarh	—	14.3	3.3	New Delhi	—	20.6	3.2
Chennai	—	28.2	21.7	Patna	—	22.0	10.7
Coimbatore	—	29.4	20.4	Port Blair	—	29.2	24.8
Dehradun	—	21.6	4.8	Puducherry	0.4	24.8	21.2
Gangtok	—	18.0	5.7	Pune	—	31.5	16.2
Goa	—	34.9	23.4	Raipur	—	28.6	13.5
Guwahati	—	26.9	12.6	Ranchi	—	21.6	8.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.3	5.8
Hyderabad	—	26.8	20.1	Shimla	—	17.2	8.8
Imphal	—	24.3	7.6	Srinagar	—	12.4	-2.4
Jaipur	—	22.4	7.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.1	23.4
Kochi	—	33.0	24.2	Tiruchi	3	24.7	20.6
Kohima	—	16.4	5.6	Vijayawada	—	29.5	21.7
Kolkata	—	25.0	12.6	Visakhapatnam	—	27.5	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.30	.38	71	212	147	
Bengaluru	5	16	38	95	117	
Chennai	6	7	52	68	59	
Delhi	.38	.83	82	326	313	
Hyderabad	7	17	76	83	110	
Kolkata	8	113	59	204	157	
Lucknow	.10	.46	94	215	269	
Mumbai	.47	106	44	89	132	
Pune	—	97	12	258	188	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.56	30	62	96	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Vapi, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CBI interrogates Vijay for six hours in Karur stampede case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/COIMBATORE

Actor Vijay. FILE PHOTO

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday questioned Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay for six hours in connection with the probe into the Karur stampede.

It is learnt that the agency wanted him to join the probe again on Tuesday, but he sought another date on account of the Pongal festival. The CBI will, therefore, summon him again as and when required. The TVK chief arrived in New Delhi on a chartered plane around 10.30 a.m., and

The agency wanted him to join the investigation again on Tuesday, but he sought another date on account of Pongal

reached the heavily barricaded CBI headquarters about an hour later. A large number of Delhi police and Central Armed Police Force personnel were deployed in anticipation of a large turnout of his supporters and fans, some of whom managed to slip through the security cordon and join the mediapersons outside the building.

Mr. Vijay left the CBI headquarters around 6.15 p.m.

The agency also questioned S. Davidson Devasirvatham, who was Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) at the time of the stampede.

The CBI re-registered the case on the orders of the Supreme Court on October 13, 2025. Stating that the incident had "shaken the national conscience", the court had ordered the probe into the stampede that claimed 41 lives at the TVK's rally on September 27 last year. The court observed that the incident had "left an imprint in the minds of citizens across the country" and the kin of the deceased had knocked on its "doors" seeking an "unbiased" investigation. It also constituted a three-member monitoring committee, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Ajay Rastogi, to supervise the progress of the CBI investigation.

Pointing out that entrusting the probe to the same police whose senior officials had publicly exonerated their subordinates would compromise the credibility of the investigation, the court said, "This fact in itself creates a doubt in the minds of the general public about the independence and impartiality of the investigation... Caught in the doldrums are the families of the deceased, injured victims, and the kith and kin of those who lost their lives in this tragedy. For them, the political tussle between the two sides is of little solace."

From Page One

SC draws June 30 deadline for civic polls

The State government had submitted that a new municipal corporation was constituted in Bengaluru under the Bruhat Bangaluru Mahanagara Palike Act of 2020, which came into effect from January 11, 2021. The State had, in a May 2022 hearing, assured that the delimitation of wards and the carving out of OBC reservation for the polls would be completed and notified in eight weeks. However, the ward-wise reservation list notified by the State government was challenged and the elections delayed again. Once Congress came to power in May, 2023, the State government brought in the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, under which the civic administration of the city was split into five city corporations, with a pan-city body Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), led by the Chief Minister. The State government had notified ward delimitation of 369 wards in these five city corporations on November 20, 2025, and draft of the ward-wise reservation list on January 8, 2026.

Jana Nayagan production house moves Apex Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

KVN Productions moved the Supreme Court against a High Court Division Bench order, which froze the implementation of a Single Judge Bench's nod to the issuance of U/A 16+ certificate to the film.

The production house of Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan* on Monday moved the Supreme Court of India against an order of stay passed by a Division Bench of the Madras High Court over the certification of the film.

KVN Productions approached the Supreme Court against a January 9 order of a High Court Division Bench, which froze the implementation of a Single Judge Bench's nod to the issuance of U/A 16+ certificate to the film, effectively stalling its immediate release ahead of Pongal. The production house has arraigned the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and its Regional Officer as respondents in the case before the Supreme Court.

The Division Bench's order came hours after the Single Judge Bench directed the CBFC to issue the censor certificate to the film reported to be the swan song for Mr. Vijay's acting career.

The production firm had initially sought an intervention from the High Court on the ground that despite a CBFC examining committee clearing the film for the issuance of U/A 16+ certificate, the Board's Chairman had unilaterally decided to send the movie for review to a revising committee.

'₹500 crore invested'

The production house's counsel had submitted before the Single Judge that around ₹500 crore had been invested in the production of the movie, and it was expected to release on the silver screen worldwide on January 9, 2026. They had argued that the film had been submitted for certification as early as December 18, 2025.

It was argued during the Single Judge Bench hearing that the five-member examining committee of the CBFC had watched the movie on December 19, 2025 and unanimously recommended the issuance of a U/A 16+ certificate to it after listing the excisions required to be made. This decision had been communicated to the production house on December 22, 2025.

The producers had made the cuts and re-submitted the edited version on December 24, 2025. Subsequently, the production house was informed on December 29, 2025 that the Board had decided to issue a U/A certificate.

However, on January 5, in a sudden volte face, the Regional Officer of the CBFC claimed that the Chairman had decided to refer the movie to a revising committee.

The CBFC had countered that one of the five members of the examining committee had sent a complaint to the CBFC chairman stating that his objections were not considered properly before making the recommendation.

The Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 2024 empowered the Chairman to refer a movie to the revising committee if he/she was not satisfied with the recommendations made by the examining committee. The Board argued that the judicial review on the merits of issuance of censor certificates was limited.

Entertaining the CBFC appeal against the Single Judge order, the Division Bench said the Single Judge ought to have granted time for the Board to file its counter affidavit before passing the order in favour of the issuance of the censor certificate for the film.

INBRIEF

Magistrate orders production of Palakkad MLA in court

The Magistrate Court in Thiruvalla has ordered the Prisons and Correctional department to produce Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil in the court on Tuesday. The court issued a production warrant for Mr. Mamkootathil to the Superintendent of the Sub-Jail in Alappuzha district, after the special investigation team probing rape charges against the MLA filed a petition on Monday seeking his police custody for further investigation. Mr. Mamkootathil is at present a remand prisoner at the Sub-Jail.

IAS association files complaint over defamatory broadcast

A criminal case has been registered by the central crime station (CCS) of Hyderabad against a Telugu news channel and several digital media platforms for airing and publishing a defamatory news bulletin targeting a serving woman IAS officer in Telangana. The complaint was lodged by the Telangana IAS Officers Association, stating that a report telecast and published on January 8 was false, fabricated and baseless. The broadcast allegedly carried unsubstantiated allegations insinuating a personal relationship between the officer and a political executive.

₹70 lakh worth ornaments stolen from Venkateswara Swamy temple at Kasibugga

The Hindu Bureau
SRIKAKULAM

Around ₹70 lakh worth silver and gold ornaments were stolen from Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple of Kasibugga of Srikakulam district in the early hours of Monday. According to police, the miscreants broke the hundi and decamped with the cash and ornaments donated by devotees. Temple trustee Mukund Panda and priests discovered the theft and informed senior police officials immediately. Kasibugga Deputy Superintendent of Police Shaik Shahbaz Ahmed, Circle Inspector Ramakrishna visited the temple and reviewed security arrangements in and around the temple. They observed that the temple did not have adequate CCTV cameras to check the movements of people in the temple premises.

Two months ago, the temple had caught the attention of the nation with the stampede on November 1, 2025 which claimed the lives of nine persons due to poor queue line arrangements. After the tragic incident, the government stopped *darshan* in the temple and taken up developmental activities. But, the lack of proper security has led to a major theft at the temple.

Despite ban, high-stake rooster fights thrive during Sankranti in Anakapalli

V. Kamalakara Rao
ANAKAPALLI

Despite the judicial ban and strict prohibitions in place, the district of Anakapalli in Andhra Pradesh is gearing up for the high-stakes rooster fights during the three-day Sankranti festival, starting with *Bhogi* on Wednesday. Tensions between deep-rooted traditions and the rule of law has reached a boiling point across the region.

In a strategic shift, to evade law enforcement, rooster fight organisers have moved the venues away from traditional village squares. Secluded layouts are being prepared near farm fields, and mango and cashew orchards, far away from the main roads, said sources.

During fights, roosters are fitted with razor-sharp blades that result in the death of the losing bird within minutes. K.V.S. GIRI

Unlike previous years, punters this year are bracing for stakes ranging between ₹5 lakh and ₹15 lakh per match. The demand for high-performance fighting roosters such as *Nemali*, *Dega*, *Kaaki*, *Rasangi*, and *Peruvian* have seen prices soar, with birds fetching between ₹10,000 and ₹25,000 each. "These breeds are fighters, jump higher, and are much more aggressive than local varieties," says P. Swami Naidu (name changed), a resident of Anakapalli.

The roosters are fed a diet of almonds, cashews, and meat to build stamina. During fights, they are fitted with razor-sharp blades that result in the death of the losing rooster within minutes.

Rooster fighting remains a punishable offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act, 1974. The Andhra Pradesh High Court recently reiterated its directive to the State government to enforce the ban strictly, even suggesting the imposition of prohibitory orders near known rooster fight venues, said Anakapalli Additional Superintendent of Police M. Deva Prasad. Police records indicate that about 50 cases of rooster fights have been booked this month in Anakapalli.

Troubling repeat

ISRO must begin rebuilding quality assurance protocols

On January 12, as the PSLV-C62 mission rose from Sriharikota into the morning sky and its third stage kicked on, the live telecast abruptly stopped showing the rocket's performance and trajectory. As it became evident that its third stage had suffered an anomaly, putting paid to the C62 mission in a manner similar to the PSLV-C61 mission in May 2025, the change in the telecast became more familiar. For decades, the PSLV has been the 'workhorse' of India's space ambitions. Together with the rocket's technology being mature, the implication is that the mistakes that sank two PSLV launches could be on the quality assurance side. At least, these are not likely to be isolated anomalies. The C61 mission failed after its third stage lost chamber pressure, but rather than publicly reveal the diagnosed root cause, the decision was to leave the Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) report with the Prime Minister's Office. ISRO provided assurances of "structural reinforcements" and cleared the PSLV for its next flight. The symptom of the C62 failure, a "roll rate disturbance", parallels the events preceding the C61 failure. The financial consequences are poor: under the aegis of NewSpace India Limited, ISRO has been positioning the PSLV as a commercial product in a competitive global launch market. Now, international insurers operating in this market will reassess the PSLV's risk profile and the insurance premiums could skyrocket, rendering the vehicle less affordable – a strategic embarrassment for a country aspiring to be a net provider in space.

The tenure of ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has been characterised by a continued shift away from ISRO's traditional culture of scientific openness toward a more guarded, bureaucratic posture. While the pressure to maintain a high launch cadence is understandable, his decision to move the C62 mission to the pad while the autopsy of its predecessor remains classified should raise tough questions about the organisation's priorities. That the C62 mission also carried the EOS-N1 satellite, built by the DRDO and with unspecified strategic applications, could help explain a 'rush' if there was one. Fortunately for Mr. Narayanan, ISRO has also demonstrated the increasing reliability of its LVM-3 rocket in his time, most recently with the M6 mission in December 2025. But right now, ISRO's and his best path to restoring confidence, and begin the painful work of rebuilding quality assurance protocols, is for the Department of Space to release the FAC report for the C61 mission. The tax-paying public and commercial stakeholders deserve to know what went wrong in 2025, whether it recurred in 2026, and why the third stage was affected again.

Cuts and ratings

CBFC procedures must be transparent, have clear timelines

Popular films that raise uncomfortable political questions or involve actors with stakes in active politics seem to invariably get caught up in issues related to certification and release. The controversies surrounding the release of two Tamil films, *Parasakthi* (a historical-fictional retelling of events coinciding with the anti-Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu in the 1960s) and *Jana Nayagan* (featuring actor-politician Vijay), are cases in point. Their releases have again highlighted the need for procedural reforms in India's certification process to allow creative expression to flourish within constitutional limits rather than being subject to ad hoc restrictions. The case of *Parasakthi*, with its numerous cuts suggested by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in a rushed manner to meet its release date, raises concerns about the possible suppression of historical narratives. The CBFC is mandated to check content against issues such as integrity of the state and public order according to the Cinematograph Act. But changes to and removal of dialogues and scenes that pertain to a pivotal chapter in Tamil Nadu's political and India's history of federalism, suggest possible over-censorship. Freedom of expression makes it imperative that such cuts must be reasoned and done in a manner that ensures that film-makers have adequate time to negotiate them than under duress. After all, the certification framework is designed to safeguard, and not stifle, creativity.

The travails of the producers of *Jana Nayagan*, a high-budget film also timed for release during the Pongal festival, highlight the other peril of an ad hoc approach in the certification process. Despite the CBFC's Examining Committee's initial recommendation of a "UA 16+" certificate, the Chairman's decision to refer the film to a Revising Committee just days before its scheduled release, ostensibly due to fresh objections by an Examining Committee member, showed a disregard for the economic realities of film-making. While the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, technically empower the Chairman to intervene, exercising such powers at the last minute appears arbitrary, as this affects producers and distributors who bank on the Pongal period to maximise returns. The release has been delayed after a Madras High Court Division Bench stayed a Single Judge's order to issue the certificate, holding that the urgency of a release date cannot act as pressure to deny the Board an opportunity to file its counter-affidavit. While this accords with legal procedure, it has also prevented timely legal recourse for the producers. As actor-politician Kamal Haasan has argued, clarity on regulation and certification is a must for unconstrained creativity and related economic activity. The CBFC must institute greater transparency and establish clearer timelines in its certification processes.

Early investment in children, the key to India's future

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a writer, practising physician, health policy expert and a parenting and child development specialist

India's aspiration to become a Viksit Bharat and a $30 trillion economy by 2047 is ambitious and desirable. However, such a vision cannot be realised through slogans or macroeconomic targets alone. It demands sustained, evidence-based investments over the next two decades, particularly in human capital formation. Infrastructure, manufacturing, digital innovation and ease of doing business dominate public discourse, and there is often mention of health and education in various policy discussions.

However, in spite of all these discussions, a critical link remains largely missing: a concrete road map and focused and systematic investment in early childhood care and development (ECCD). Without strengthening the foundations laid in the earliest years of life, India's development ambitions risk being on fragile ground.

An investment in ECCD is not a welfare intervention but a strategic economic investment. From conception to the second birthday of a child – the first 1,000 days of life – have been considered most important for the growth and development of children. This phase has been recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF as a crucial 'window of opportunity' for shaping a child's future well-being and potential. The next six years which follow (three to eight years) constitute approximately another 2,000 days. Thus, the first 3,000 days shape brain architecture, physical health, cognitive ability, emotional regulation and social skills. The early capabilities developed during this period determine a child's capacity to learn, adapt and contribute productively to society as an adult.

Children who are well-nourished, emotionally secure and cognitively stimulated are more likely to complete education, acquire skills, participate meaningfully in the workforce and earn higher incomes. At the national level, such investments reduce future spending on health care, remedial education and social protection, while expanding the tax base through a healthier and more productive workforce. These efforts can lift families out of poverty and help them move upward in the economic ladder. By reducing inequities rooted in poverty, gender, and geography, ECCD strengthens social mobility and inclusive growth. The evidence and experience from many countries including the United States, the Nordic countries, particularly Finland, and also from South Korea support these arguments. However, ECCD investments demand patience. Their most visible benefits emerge over 10 to 20 years later, as healthier and better-prepared cohorts enter adulthood. Yet, once realised, these gains are durable, intergenerational and central to national competitiveness.

Build upon the existing foundation

India's experience offers important lessons. Over the past five decades, the country has made notable progress in child and newborn survival. This did not occur by chance. Programmes such as the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood initiative (1992), the Reproductive and Child Health programme (1997), and their consolidation under the National Health Mission, significantly reduced infant and under-five mortality, improved immunisation coverage and addressed severe malnutrition. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), 1975, later restructured as Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, laid the foundation for nutrition and early care, especially among poorer households. State governments also contributed through innovations and delivery models.

However, most interventions have been narrowly focused and fragmented. The primary emphasis has remained on survival – keeping children alive – rather than enabling them to reach their full developmental potential.

Moreover, ECCD initiatives have largely been targeted at children within government safety nets, leaving out vast sections of middle- and higher-income families. This exclusion is problematic, because developmental challenges are not confined to poverty alone. Children from middle and even upper income households increasingly face obesity, physical inactivity, excessive screen exposure, delayed social skills, emotional difficulties and behavioural problems. Early childhood development must be universal, not targeted.

The focus needs to be on the first 3,000 days of life and a national mission on early childhood care and development

A case for early interventions

Scientific understanding of child development has advanced rapidly, reinforcing the urgency of early intervention. Research in epigenetics shows that health, nutrition, stress and environmental exposures even before conception can influence gene expression and long-term health outcomes.

Parental obesity, substance use, poor nutrition and chronic stress increase a child's risk of non-communicable diseases, developmental delays, and metabolic disorders. During the first 1,000 days, most neural connections are formed, and nearly 80%-85% of brain development occurs. Deprivation or neglect at this stage is often irreversible.

Paradoxically, this is also when children spend almost all their time within families, with minimal engagement with formal systems beyond immunisation or illness care. In the digital age, many parents rely on social media for guidance, much of which is commercially driven or poorly informed. Credible and structured support on early stimulation, responsive care-giving, play and emotional nurturing remain scarce. Formal interventions typically begin only around 30-36 months, through Anganwadi centres or private preschools. While important, these come late. The provision of developmental interventions in the first 1,000 days of life is still a 'big missing window'.

Therefore, India must move beyond fragmented approaches centred on feeding programmes or notional school health services. What is needed is an integrated ECCD framework that brings together health, nutrition, early learning, emotional wellbeing and care-giving, from conception to eight years of age. For a nation aspiring to economic leadership, investment in early childhood is not optional. It is foundational.

First, India needs structured premarital and pre-conception counselling for young adults and couples, focusing on nutrition, mental health, lifestyle choices and intergenerational impacts. This would represent one of the highest-return investments in public health, benefiting two generations simultaneously.

Second, parents must be empowered with knowledge about early stimulation and responsive care-giving. Simple, low-cost activities – talking, reading, singing, playing and emotional engagement – can profoundly shape brain development from the earliest weeks of life. For example, stories can be read and told to a baby as young as four weeks. Doing so, accelerates formation of neural connections in the brain and future learning capacity. A nationwide system of parental education on child growth and development is an urgent need.

Third, parents and families should be trained in basic growth monitoring and age-appropriate developmental milestones, through periodic, simple sessions. Early identification of delays can be among the most cost-effective interventions for infants and toddlers, rivalled only by immunisation.

Fourth, India must invest far more in quality care and learning systems for children aged two to five, a phase critical for preventing undernutrition and obesity and for shaping life-long habits related to health and emotional regulation.

Fifth, education, nutrition and health systems must break out of silos. Children need learning, not just schooling; nutrition for life, not just feeding; and well-being, not ritualistic check-ups. Schools, as the most widely accepted institutional platform, should evolve into integrated hubs for learning, health and nutrition.

Sixth, preconception health and the first 3,000 days must become part of a nationwide social conversation, extending beyond clinics into homes, workplaces and communities. Every teacher in every school in India, too needs training in child growth and development beyond academics.

Finally, schools should engage parents as partners, while non-profit organisations, philanthropic institutions, and corporate social responsibility initiatives must help build a supportive ECCD ecosystem.

Need for a citizen-led movement

India's future will not be determined by what it promises its children, but by what it invests in them during their earliest years. A citizen-led movement for child growth, learning and development – supported by the state and owned by society – may well be the missing link in India's journey to becoming a truly developed nation. These actions would require effective and functional coordination between different Ministries, especially the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development, amongst others. To formalise and ensure a road map, it can be implemented as an inter-ministerial plan or as an overarching national mission on early childhood care and development.

A Bill that reimagines higher education regulation

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Poet Tiruvalluvar in his 140th *Thirukkural* says: "Education imparted is useless, unless one learns how to live with the society."

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 intends to provide that holistic education that teaches one to be socially relevant.

To ensure that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 is achieved, India needs citizens who can lead from here. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 15, 2025, aims to make this a reality and help reimagine India's higher education institutions.

Need for change

Why is there a need for this? India's higher education system has expanded rapidly, spanning over a 1,000 universities, tens of thousands of institutions, and crores of learners. But, regulation has not evolved at the same pace. Multiple statutory bodies with overlapping mandates have created a maze of approvals, inspections and compliance that often pulls institutions away from teaching, research and innovation. This has turned well-meaning oversight into over-regulation, forcing institutions to prioritise paperwork over outcomes and making it harder to collaborate, innovate or update curricula quickly. Institutions find themselves spending a disproportionate effort on "process" rather than "purpose".

NEP 2020 recognised this and called for a "light but tight" framework – strong on transparency and standards, but minimal on procedural burden, while granting greater autonomy to well-performing institutions. The Bill is a structural step in this direction, aiming to replace fragmented oversight with coordinated standards, streamlined regulation, and credible quality assurance. Anchored in Entry 66 (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule, the Bill creates an apex umbrella body, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan, with three separate councils for regulation, accreditation and standards. This clear division of roles aims to improve credibility and reduce conflicts of interest. It also proposes repealing three key Acts – the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the All India Council For Technical Education Act 1987, and the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 – to unify and modernise the regulatory architecture, bringing relevant higher education institutions under a single framework for coordinated standard-setting and oversight.

The 'light but tight' framework of the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 will transform higher education and also India

Finally, it envisages a technology-enabled single window system built on public self disclosure, where institutions publish key information on governance, finances, infrastructure, faculty, programmes and outcomes, thus enabling continuous transparency and forming the basis for accreditation and public accountability.

The impact

The Bill could trigger three high-impact outcomes. First, it can enable youth empowerment at scale. A streamlined regulatory landscape can expand access to quality institutions and raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio by reducing bottlenecks that slow down capacity-building and programme expansion.

More importantly, it can shift institutional energy toward what truly matters: teaching that builds reasoning and values; learning that is interdisciplinary and flexible; and opportunities for reskilling and upskilling across a lifetime.

Students will provide feedback on academic quality and the overall learning experience of the higher education institutions. With robust grievance redress, they become active stakeholders and are able to demand quality, reward good governance, and help institutions improve through structured feedback.

Second, it can accelerate the adoption of global best practices while remaining rooted in Indian priorities. International credibility is not achieved by copying foreign models, but by meeting global benchmarks of outcomes, ethics, research culture and student experience. A coherent standards framework can support mobility of learners and faculty, promote collaborative research and help Indian institutions attract international students and faculty while also retaining Indian talent.

Third, it can modernise governance through transparency and minimalistic, responsive regulation. A faceless, technology-enabled single-window system can reduce discretion and delays, encourage integrity, and improve predictability for institutions. Public disclosure, when meaningful and audited, creates a culture where trust is earned, not assumed. Autonomy for well-performing institutions and institutions of eminence can then become a tool for excellence; common standards with differentiated autonomy can allow diversity to thrive without compromising quality. The end goal is smarter regulation: focused on outcomes, learner welfare and national priorities.

In perspective

Atmanirbharta in higher education is achieved when India's institutions can set ambitious goals, innovate responsibly and remain accountable to society. When the Bill succeeds in aligning standards, regulation, and accreditation into a coherent and transparent system, it will help build exactly the kind of citizens that Tiruvalluvar envisioned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Security measures'

The Centre's proposed 'telecom security assurance requirements' raise urgent questions of a balance between national security and consumer trust. While vulnerability analysis and malware scanning may strengthen defences, mandating access to source code risks undermining intellectual property and deterring innovation. Such intrusive measures could discourage global firms from investing in India, ultimately limiting consumer choice and competitiveness. Security cannot be achieved by eroding confidence in privacy or by creating bureaucratic choke points. Instead, transparent collaboration with industry, independent audits, and global best practices should guide policy. India must secure its digital ecosystem without stifling technological progress. Pragmatism demands safeguards that protect sovereignty and innovation.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Corrections & Clarifications

The reference to 'anti-Hindu agitation' in the sixth paragraph of an article, "Where cinema and politics meet" (Opinion page – 'State of Play', January 12, 2026) should have been 'anti-Hindi agitation'.

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Why Article 6 is a powerful tool for India

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To strengthen the delivery and efficiency of climate finance, the carbon markets under Article 6 (A6) of the Paris Agreement were made fully operational at COP29. According to the A6 Implementation Partnership, there are 89 cooperation arrangements made under Article 6.2 across 58 Parties, reflecting the growing momentum and acceleration of bilateral and plurilateral carbon market collaborations. The adoption of the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.4) at COP29 marked a milestone in the transition from the Clean Development Mechanism. This step has paved the way for a more rigorous, transparent, and globally aligned crediting framework under the Paris Agreement.

After years of anticipation and careful deliberation, in August 2025, India entered a new era of carbon markets by signing the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This effectively operationalised Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement and signalled a new chapter in international climate cooperation.

The potential of Article 6

Why does participation of India in the A6 mechanism hold critical significance for India? Partnerships within A6 can translate into transfer of advanced tech, support to research and development, strengthen bilateral relations and channel much-needed climate finance into the economy. This can be a lever for socio-economic transformation that aligns with domestic climate goals, especially for a rapidly growing country such as India.

Critically, the potential of A6 market mechanisms (both 6.2 and 6.4) is not just restricted to generating climate finance through the exchange of carbon credits, known as internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. Instead, the real prize lies in using this mechanism to accelerate a low-carbon industrial and technological transformation, while building resilient trade relationships in a carbon-constrained world.

The Paris Agreement's Rule book sets out the architecture for A6. It allows countries to cooperate bilaterally or multilaterally, transferring emissions reductions while ensuring rigorous accounting to avoid double counting. India's new JCM partnership with Japan is an early example of how this cooperation can work.

To operationalise both Article 6.2 and 6.4, the Indian government has already strategically identified a first set of 13 eligible activities keeping both developmental and climate goals in balance. These are high-end, emerging technologies that can fundamentally shift the country's emissions profile and significantly contribute to the acceleration of India's economic growth trajectory. For the next three years, credits can be generated in sectors which hold most attention for the country in all fronts. These include renewable energy with storage; solar thermal power plants and offshore wind; green hydrogen and compressed bio-gas; emerging mobility solutions like fuel cells; high-end energy-efficiency technologies; and sustainable aviation fuel.

The current Indian list of activities reflects a deliberate and forward-looking strategy that aligns with India's long-term goals of sustainable growth and deep decarbonisation. As India continues to depend on coal for power generation, emerging solutions such as offshore wind, large-scale energy storage, and marine energy can accelerate diversification of its energy mix. Green hydrogen, particularly in industrial applications like steelmaking, offers a pathway to significantly lower emissions intensity across critical sectors. In hard-to-abate industries such as cement, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage provides a credible route to deep decarbonisation. Each of these technologies complements national priorities while strengthening the foundation for a low-carbon economy.

From intent to action

However, to unlock these opportunities, India must now move from intent to action. Key policy priorities stand out. First, strengthen the domestic framework. India has appointed a Designated National Authority for A6, but so far it is yet to detail the scope of the activities to be implemented. This necessitates the articulation of rules governing the issuance of Letters of Authorisation, the application of corresponding adjustments, and the establishment of a stable legal and regulatory framework for carbon trading.

Second, streamline project clearances. A steering committee could be created at the Cabinet level to offer broader guidelines and regularly take stock. CEEW research shows that voluntary carbon projects in India take over 1,600 days to register for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use projects, compared to less than 400 days elsewhere in Asia. For A6 projects, where land and multiple stakeholders are often involved, a single-window clearance system is essential.

Third, build and strengthen the removals market. The global demand for carbon removals is rising. Article 6 provides an ideal platform to build a domestic market for activities like Biochar and Enhanced Rock Weathering, positioning India as a supplier of high-quality removal credits.

Fourth, strengthen South-South collaboration. India can take the lead in building shared systems, knowledge networks, and financing models across developing countries.

India's first step under A6 marks more than a technical milestone; it is an opportunity to access advanced technologies, attract climate-aligned finance, and deepen international partnerships.

India's first step under Article 6 marks more than a technical milestone; it is an opportunity to access advanced technologies, attract climate-aligned finance, and deepen international partnerships

Bhoomi, a governance success

The project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records

STATE OF PLAY

Kumara

For decades, access to land records was one of rural India's most persistent governance failures. Karnataka's Bhoomi project, now completing 25 years, offers an instructive counterpoint showing how administrative reform can reshape the relationship between governance and the people.

Until the late 1990s, land administration in Karnataka relied almost entirely on handwritten records maintained by village accountants. Farmers seeking a Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) often had to repeatedly visit revenue offices, navigate complex procedures, and rely on intermediaries. Errors in records were common, and corrections took months. In an agrarian State where land disputes routinely spilt into civil courts, the costs of administrative inefficiency were borne disproportionately by small and marginal farmers.

Launched in 2000, Bhoomi was a bold departure from this legacy. Its immediate goal was simple: computerise land records and make them accessible. Its greater ambition was to replace discretion with rules, delay with timelines, and opacity with transparency. The legal recognition of computerised RTCs and the abolition of handwritten records marked a historic shift. Over the last 25 years, more than 39.8 crore RTCs have been issued, fundamentally altering how land records are accessed across the State.

Many revenue officials were initially hesitant to abandon familiar manual systems. Karnataka responded with large-scale capacity building, training nearly 9,000 village accountants, 8,000 revenue inspectors, and 1,000 computer operators. The establishment of 204 Bhoomi Kendras at the taluk level enabled the digitisation of nearly 2.5 crore land records covering about 3.5 crore farmers. What followed was not merely digitisation, but a cultural shift within the administration.

Initially, the Bhoomi project in Karnataka began as a modest effort to computerise only manual RTCs. But today, it functions as a comprehensive digital ecosystem that integrates land and revenue administration with multiple welfare services. The integration of Bhoomi with the Kaveri registration system changed the face of land registration in Karnataka. By linking registration with land records, the State sharply reduced fraudulent transactions and eliminated middlemen. Mutation, once a source of endless delay, became automatic and transparent. Survey and boundary disputes, another chronic problem, were addressed through the introduction of the Mojini (Survey) software in 2007. For the first time, land measurement and survey processes were brought under a digital, time-bound framework. The 11E Sketch, a pre-conversion map introduced by Karnataka, further improved accuracy in land boundaries and area measurement. The result has been a visible reduction in land-related disputes.

Bhoomi's evolution also reflects Karnataka's broader approach to governance: using administrative reform to strengthen welfare delivery. Since 2016, crop compensation has been credited directly to farmers' bank accounts, bypassing intermediaries. During the 2018 loan waiver programme, Bhoomi data enabled the waiver of loans for nearly 20 lakh farmers. The integration with PM-Kisan, the Agriculture Department's FRUITS platform, and Aadhaar seeding of over 2.17 crore farmer accounts has improved targeting and reduced leakages. By ensuring accurate and up-to-date records, Bhoomi has helped convert entitlement on paper into benefits on the ground.

Perhaps Bhoomi's most significant achievement is not technological but experiential. Farmers no longer have to travel from village to taluk and taluk to district offices for routine services. The scope for discretionary abuse has narrowed. The relationship between citizens and the revenue administration has become more predictable. In a State where land remains emotionally and economically central, this shift has strengthened trust in public institutions.

As Karnataka reflects on Bhoomi at 25, the project offers lessons for other States rushing to digitise land records. Technology alone does not deliver reform. Bhoomi worked because it was embedded in administrative restructuring, legal change, and continuous institutional learning. It shows that digital governance succeeds when it is incremental, inclusive, and grounded in local realities.

Dr. Kumara IAS is Deputy Commissioner, Mandya District

Solar panels yield far more energy per acre than biofuels

A Poland-sized area is dedicated to liquid biofuels. Is there a more efficient way to generate energy?

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie
Pablo Rosado

A man rides a motorcycle in Gujarat Solar Park at Patan district in Gujarat. REUTERS

Electric vehicles might be promoted as the key technological solution for low-carbon transport today, but they were not always the obvious option. Back in the early 2000s, it was biofuels. Rather than extracting and burning oil, we could grow crops like cereals and sugarcane, and turn them into viable fuels.

While we might expect biofuels to be a solution of the past due to the cost-competitiveness and rise of electric cars, the world produces more biofuels than ever. And this rise is expected to continue.

In this article, we give a sense of perspective on how much land is used to produce biofuels, and what the potential of that land could be if we used it for other forms of energy. We will focus on what would happen if we used that land for solar panels, and then how many electric vehicles could be powered as a result. We will mostly focus on road transport, as that is where 99% of biofuels are currently used.

To be clear: we are not proposing that we should replace all biofuel land with solar panels. There are many ways we could utilise this land, whether for food production, some biofuel production, or rewilding. Maybe some combination of all of the above. But to make informed decisions about how to use our land effectively, we need to get a perspective on the potential of each option. That is what we aim to do here for solar power and electrified transport.

Source and impacts

Most of the world's biofuels come from sugarcane (mostly grown in Brazil), cereal crops such as corn (mostly grown in the United States and the European Union), and oil crops such as soybean and palm oil (which are grown in the U.S., Brazil, and Indonesia). Collectively, these biofuels produce around 4% of the world's energy demand for transport. While that does push some oil from the energy mix, the climate benefits of biofuels are not always as clear as people might assume.

Once we consider the climate impact of growing the food and manufacturing the fuel, the carbon savings relative to petrol can be small for some crops. But more importantly, when the opportunity costs of the land used to grow those crops are taken into account, they might be worse for the climate. That is because agricultural land use is not "free". If we chose not to use it for agriculture, then it could be rewilded and reforested, which would sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

From a climate perspective, freeing up that cropland from biofuels would be one alternative. However, another option is to utilise it for another form of energy, which could offer a much greater climate benefit.

A recent analysis from researchers at Cerulogy estimated that biofuels are grown on 61 million hectares of land. But when they split this allocation between land for biofuels and land for animal feed, the land use for biofuels alone was 32 million hectares. There are much higher published figures too. For this article, we are going to assume a net land use of 32 million hectares. This is conservative, and that is deliberate. For context, that is about the size of Germany, Poland, the Philippines, Finland, or Italy.

Solar power equivalent

How much solar power could you produce on that land, and how many cars could you run? Could we use those 32 million hectares of land differently to produce even more energy than we currently get from biofuels?

The answer is yes. If we put solar panels on that land, we could produce roughly 32,000 terawatt-hours of electricity each year. That is 23 times more than the energy that is currently produced in the form of all liquid biofuels. 32,000 terawatt-hours is a big number. The world generated 31,000 TWh of electricity in 2024. So, these new solar panels would produce enough to meet the world's current electricity demand.

Again, our proposal is not that we should cover all of this land in solar panels, or that it could easily power the world on its own. We don't account for the fact that we would need energy storage and other options to make sure that power is available where and when it is needed (not just when the sun is shining). We are just trying to get a sense of perspective for how much electricity could be produced by using that land in more efficient ways.

These comparisons might seem surprising at first. But they can be explained by the fact that growing crops is a very inefficient process. Plants convert less than 1% of sunlight into biomass through photosynthesis. Even more energy is then lost when we turn those plants into liquid fuels. Crops such as sugarcane tend to perform better than others, like maize, but even they are still inefficient.

By comparison, solar panels convert 15% to 20% of sunlight into electricity, with some recent designs achieving as much as 25%. That means replacing crops with solar panels will generate a lot more energy.

Solar versus biofuels

Now, you might think that we are comparing very different things here: energy from liquid biofuels meant to decarbonise transport, and solar, which could decarbonise electricity. But with the rise of affordable and high-quality electric vehicles, solar power can be a way to decarbonise transport, too.

Run the numbers, and we find that you could power all of the world's cars and trucks on this solar energy if transport were electrified. Of course, these vehicles would need to be electrified in the first place. This is happening – electric car sales are rising, and electric trucks are now starting to get some attention – but it will take time for most vehicles on the road to be electric. For now, we will imagine that they are.

We estimate that the total electricity needed to power all cars and trucks is around 7,000 TWh per year, comprising 3,500 TWh for cars and a similar amount for trucks. You could power all of the world's cars and trucks on this solar energy if transport were electrified.

That is less than one-quarter of the 32,000 TWh that solar panels could produce on biofuel land. Consider those options. The world could meet 3% or 4% of transport demand with biofuels. Or it could meet all road transport demand on just one-quarter of that land. The other three-quarters could be used for other things, such as food production, biofuels for aviation, or it could be left alone to rewild.

Land use comes at a cost, so we should think carefully about how to use it well. Our point here is not that we should cover all of our biofuel land in solar panels. What we do want to challenge is how we think and talk about land use. People rightly question the impact of solar or wind farms on landscapes, but rarely consider the land use of existing biofuel crops, which do very little to decarbonise our energy supplies.

Hannah Ritchie and Pablo Rosado are associated with Our World In Data, a project of Global Change Data Lab

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1976

Bill to prevent Ry. wagons being used as godowns passed

New Delhi, Jan. 12: The Rajya Sabha to-day passed the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1976, providing for a special procedure for speedy disposal of goods not taken delivery of by consignees within seven days of their arrival at the destination.

The measure was earlier described by the Railway Minister, Mr. Kamalapathi Tripathi, as essential in dealing with anti-social traders, who used railway wagons as warehouses to make more profits and create artificial scarcity of certain commodities.

The Bill would replace the Ordinance promulgated by the President on September 25, 1975.

Mr. Tripathi said the Bill also provided for the goods not lifted by the consignee within seven days, to be transferred to the Central or State Governments, or to an agency nominated by the Government. In the case of essential commodities they could be made available to co-operative fair price shops for sale to the public. In all other cases such goods would be sold by public auction.

Money realised through sale, transfer, or auction of the unlifted goods would be paid to the consignor or the owner after deducing railway charges and the cost of auction under the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. Tripathi said the measure was long overdue because unscrupulous traders "struck at the most opportune moments of movement of goods to create artificial scarcity and thus push up prices." These traders were prepared to pay demurrages and additional cost because they stood to profit much more.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1926

French scientists' claim

London, Jan. 13: Dr. Roux, Director of the Pasteur Institute, announced to the Academy of Sciences that Drs Ramon and Zeilor have discovered an anti-toxin giving permanent and complete immunity from tetanus. The anti-toxin can be injected even in large doses without inconvenience into all wounds liable to cause tetanus. Supplies will soon be at the disposal of the medical profession.

From Page One

PSLV-C62 fails to launch satellite due to anomaly

On May 18, 2025, ISRO's attempted launch of the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 mission could not be completed, also due to an anomaly in the third stage of the rocket. The EOS-N1 earth observation satellite is said to be built for strategic purposes.

The financial burden for the satellites lost in the failed PSLV-C62 mission falls on different parties, depending on the nature of the satellite. In the space industry, there is no single payer for a failed mission; instead, the loss is absorbed by a mix of state funding and insurance claims. Governments typically do not purchase commercial insurance for their own strategic or military satellites because the premiums are very high. In the present instance, the direct financial loss of the EOS-N1 satellite, developed by DRDO, will be borne by the State, and DRDO may have to seek fresh budgetary approval to build a replacement.

The co-passenger satellites from private enterprises, including Indian startups and international entities, would have purchased policies that pay out a lump sum in the event of a 'total loss' during the launch phase. If a specific entity didn't purchase insurance, that company must absorb the total loss itself.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, is likely to have had contracts with the private customers. While NSIL generally doesn't pay for the satellite itself, the contract might include a re-flight guarantee or a refund of the launch fee if the mission fails.

(With inputs from Vasudevan Mukunth)

India, Germany sign pact for defence ties

Mr. Modi pointed out that Chancellor Merz's visit coincided with India and Germany marking 25 years of strategic partnership and 75 years of diplomatic relations. The two teams also discussed multiple regional issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, with PM Modi reiterating India's condemnation of terrorism.

Chancellor Merz urged India to partner with Germany in strengthening 'global supply chains'. "Unfortunately, we are seeing a renaissance of protectionism," said Chancellor Merz, adding that protectionism hurts India-Germany trade ties. The comments from the visiting German leader about the rise in protectionism in global affairs came against the backdrop of a decline in India-U.S. trade relations that have been hit by the imposition of punitive tariffs on India by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Chancellor Merz did not talk about President Trump in his formal remarks, but later, talking to reporters, he mentioned that Germany does not impose tariffs on other countries, an indirect reference to the punitive tariffs that the U.S. has imposed on India.

"Countries like Germany and India have been focusing on principles of free trade and open markets, and we will continue to focus on these principles in future. We are experiencing that great powers are using supply chains and raw materials as instruments of power. Together we want to oppose this," said Chancellor Merz, indicating the India-EU Free Trade Agreement could be concluded as early as the end of this month.

A Joint statement issued after bilateral talks said that the two leaders have "reiterated their support for the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement as a key outcome of the upcoming EU-India Summit, which will facilitate trade flows and inject further momentum into German-India economic relations."

The two sides reiterated their commitment to fight illegal immigration and aimed for full implementation of the provisions of the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) that was signed in December 2022. The agreement is aimed at stopping "irregular migration, human trafficking and document and visa fraud", said the Joint Statement."

It added that a 'Joint Declaration of Intent' signed on Monday on the recruitment of healthcare professionals will address Germany's demand for the sector.

India to be invited to join U.S-led initiative Pax Silica, says envoy

India was not included in the original launch of the arrangement for cooperation on semiconductors, critical minerals, AI; Gor 'takes charge' of U.S. Embassy with music and fanfare, says both countries continue to actively engage over trade deal

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

New beginning: U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor receives a warm welcome as he marks his first day at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

India will be invited to join "Pax Silica", the U.S.-led eight-nation arrangement to cooperate on semiconductors, critical minerals, and artificial intelligence, next month, incoming U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor announced on Monday. He added that both countries hoped to make progress on long-delayed trade negotiations soon.

Mr. Gor, who is yet to present his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu, projected a positive outlook for India-U.S. ties after months of tensions over trade, tariffs, and India's import of Russian oil.

"The United States and India are bound not just by shared interests, but by relationship anchored at the highest levels," Mr. Gor said in an unprecedented "arrival speech", delivered with much fanfare from the steps of the U.S. Embassy on Shantipath in Delhi.

"Real friends can disagree but always resolve their differences in the end," he added. He said the two sides "continue to actively engage" over the trade deal that had been initially launched nearly a year ago when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington. Subsequently, the deal lost momentum as the U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods, and has seen six official rounds of negotiations and three visits to the U.S. by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"Remember, India is the world's largest nation, so it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there," he said.

India was not included in the original launch of "Pax Silica" in Washington in December, though fellow Quad members Japan and Australia, I2U2 countries, Israel and the UAE, and others including South Korea, Singapore, the U.K., and the Netherlands were invited.

Trump's visit

Mr. Gor said he hoped U.S. President Donald Trump would visit India "soon, hopefully in the next year or two". Mr. Trump was expected to visit India last year to attend the Quad Summit, and India is hoping to host the summit this year.

Unconventional arrival

The Ambassador's statement, made to hundreds of U.S. Embassy staffers in Delhi and Indian media, was unconventional as Mr. Gor is expected to present his credentials later this week. According to diplomatic protocol, Ambassadors are expected to make public appearances only after the credentials are presented. Mr. Gor arrived at the Embassy with his Ambassadorial convoy, including a special armoured car with red and blue blinking lights. As he alighted, the Embassy officials who had gathered there more than two hours before, along with the press, greeted him with loud applause, and as he walked up the steps, a special playlist of songs, reportedly chosen by Mr. Gor, that included the 1960s soul song *Hold on, I'm Coming* and Mr. Trump's favourite *YMCA* were played over loudspeakers. The ceremony, which included dozens of media outlets, was telecast live – a break from the past. His predecessor, Biden-appointee Eric Garcetti, had arrived to take up his assignment in a colourful autorickshaw in April 2023, but without the media or the large welcoming assembly.

Mr. Gor begins with his tasks cut out, given spiralling ties between New Delhi and Washington, particularly over a number of statements, including Mr. Trump's repeated claim that he mediated the India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025, which the government has strenuously denied.

Last week, the External Affairs Ministry rejected a claim by U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that the trade deal had fallen through as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not called Mr. Trump to finalise it, pointing out that the two leaders had spoken eight times during the year.

Mr. Gor said that India-U.S. trade negotiators would hold another call on Tuesday.

In addition, the government has been uncomfortable with the U.S. President's contention that Mr. Modi had promised to cut India's imports of Russian oil "to make him happy", stressing that any decisions are led by market conditions.

Special envoy

Mr. Gor, who has also been appointed Mr. Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, has taken a few months to arrive, after being named for the post in August 2024, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in October.

Alongside bilateral issues, his travels in the region, particularly to Pakistan and Bangladesh, will be watched most closely in New Delhi.

Govt. disputes reports that it plans to seek source codes of phones

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) disputed a media report on plans to require phone makers like Apple Inc. and Xiaomi to disclose their operating systems' core source code, saying that the consultation was a "routine" one, and that the government had an "open mind" on where discussions with phone makers go.

"These consultations are part of the Ministry's regular and ongoing engagement with industry on safety and security standards," the IT Ministry said in a press note.

A senior government official strongly disputed the report, which was based on an Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements (ITSAR) document, issued by a body under the Department of Telecommunications in 2023. That ITSAR standard, for mobile phones, does mention that source code should be open to third party audits, and that news of software updates must be intimated to the government.

The official said the discussions followed the enactment of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and subsequent industry representations from phone manufacturers, who requested that they be subject to the administrative purview of the IT Ministry. No smartphone maker had expressed concern at the way this consultation was held, the official said.

Safety of victims paramount while considering bail in POCSO cases: SC

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The top court held that the bail order had failed to account for the threat to the victim's safety.

The safety of the victim and the sanctity of the trial are paramount considerations while adjudicating bail applications in cases involving sexual offences against children, the Supreme Court said in a judgment as it cancelled the bail granted to an accused in a 2024 gang rape case.

Allowing an appeal filed by the victim, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan held that the April 2025 order of the Allahabad High Court granting bail had resulted in a "miscarriage of justice", as it failed to account for the threat to the victim's safety, particularly since she resided in the same locality as the accused.

"In offences involving sexual assault against children, the likelihood of tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses constitutes a grave and legitimate concern. The safety of the victim and the need to preserve the purity of the trial process assume paramount importance," the Bench observed.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed against the bail granted to one of the accused by the High Court on April 9, 2025. The minor victim said the family of the accused was highly influential and could tamper with evidence.

The victim, who was 16 years old at the time of the incident, was allegedly sexually assaulted by four individuals in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district on December 1, 2024.

Charges were framed against the accused under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, including Sections 5(I) and 6 of the POCSO Act, which deal with aggravated penetrative sexual assault committed repeatedly against a minor, and carry punishment extending to life imprisonment or death penalty.

'Manifestly perverse'

The Bench held that the release of the accused gave rise to a "real and imminent apprehension of intimidation" to the victim. The judges also noted that the counselling report of the Child Welfare Committee indicated that the victim was suffering psychological distress.

"In the present case, the grant of bail by the High Court is vitiated by material misdirection and non-consideration of relevant factors rendering the same manifestly perverse," the ruling said. The Bench set aside the bail verdict.

Misconduct on train: Supreme Court stays judge's reinstatement

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The judicial officer was dismissed for urinating in the presence of a woman passenger on a train

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Madhya Pradesh High Court order directing the reinstatement of a judicial officer who had been dismissed from service over allegations of serious misconduct aboard a train, including urinating while in an inebriated state in the presence of a woman co-passenger.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta deprecated the officer's conduct, terming it the "grossest grave misconduct". "This is a shocking case. He urinated inside the compartment. There was a lady present," Justice Mehta remarked orally.

The Bench was hearing an appeal filed by the Registrar-General of the High Court against a May 6, 2025 order of a Division Bench that had set aside the officer's termination and directed his reinstatement within 15 days.

Issuing notice to the judicial officer and the Madhya Pradesh government, the Bench stayed the operation of the impugned judgment. The judicial officer was appointed to the post of Civil Judge (Class-II) in March 2011.

Iran wants talks after threat to strike: Trump

"That is why the demonstrations turned violent and bloody to give an excuse to the American President to intervene," Mr. Araghchi said, in comments carried by *Al Jazeera*.

The U.S. President's comments came after the Foreign Minister of Oman – long an interlocutor between Washington and Tehran – travelled to Iran this weekend.

It remains unclear just what Iran could promise, particularly as Mr. Trump has set strict demands over its nuclear programme and its ballistic missile arsenal.

Meanwhile, pro-government demonstrators in Iran flooded the streets on Monday, a show of force after days of protests challenging the rule of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Mr. Trump and his national security team have been weighing a range of potential responses against Iran, according to two people familiar with internal White House discussions, on the condition of anonymity. "The military is looking at it, and we're looking at some very strong options," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday night.

'Copy-paste' order led to detention: Wangchuk

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday said in the Supreme Court that unconnected events, vague aspersions, misrepresentation of facts and mechanical application of mind by authorities formed the basis and reason for his detention.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Mr. Wangchuk submitted that the detention order was a mere "copy-paste" of the request made for his custody.

China Communist Party team meets BJP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delegation of the CPC, led by vice-minister Sun Haiyan, meeting the BJP office-bearers in New Delhi on Monday. X/ARUNSINGHBJP

In a first since the Galwan conflict in 2020 and a thaw in India-China ties in 2024, a delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by vice-minister Sun Haiyan, met with senior office-bearers of the ruling BJP on Monday, ahead of the delegation's meeting with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

The delegation will meet senior leaders of the RSS on Tuesday.

"A delegation of Communist Party of China under the leadership of H.E. Ms. Sun Haiyan visited the BJP head office today. A BJP delegation headed by party general secretary Arun Singh discussed at length the means to advance inter-party communications between BJP and CPC. Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong also joined," posted Vijay Chauthaiwale, head of the BJP's foreign affairs cell, on X on Monday evening.

The CCP and BJP had last met almost six years ago, but there had been similar contacts in the past. In January 2011, when Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari was BJP president, a party delegation had travelled to China.

In 2009, a delegation of BJP and RSS leaders visited Beijing.

In 2014, RSS leader Pradeep Joshi had welcomed the CPC's stand to amend textbooks in Chinese history to restore Chinese greatness.

The meeting on Monday comes against the backdrop of China resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and the reinstatement of direct flights between India and China. The visit also comes amid a long-drawn-out trade negotiation between India and the U.S., with the latter imposing a 50% tariff on Indian goods.

The meeting on Tuesday will take place in the RSS's centenary year and continues confidence-building measures between the two countries, a senior RSS functionary told *The Hindu*.

The meeting comes despite the RSS not inviting representatives of China for its centenary year celebration, which was held in Nagpur on the occasion of Vijayadasami.

Chinese envoys were also not invited to the lecture series of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, which was held in New Delhi in August last year and attended by Ambassadors of several countries.

The delegation is also expected to meet a Congress team in the days to come, party sources said.

EC clarifies on SIR notice to former Navy chief

Press Trust of India
PANAJI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday clarified that a "system-driven procedure" had led to the controversial notice issued to former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash (retd.) as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Goa.

The commission said the incomplete details in his previous enumeration form had triggered the notice. The notice to Admiral Prakash, an 81-year-old Vir Chakra awardee and hero of the 1971 India-Pakistan war, had sparked a social media storm, with citizens questioning why such a decorated officer was required to "prove his identity" in person.

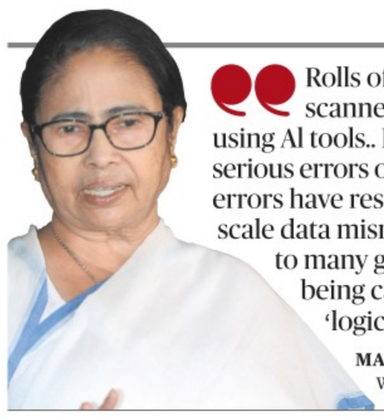
Officials said the form had now been duly completed and he was not required to appear now.

In a clarification on Monday, Electoral Registration Officer Medora Ermomilla D'Costa said that as per the standard, system-driven procedure, the notice was automatically generated and issued to enable verification of the elector's details and ensure due opportunity for confirmation of eligibility.

Mamata writes to CEC, flags flaws in SIR process

CM says SIR process is mechanical and driven by technicalities rather than a reasoned application of mind; highlights non-issuance of documentary acknowledgement during hearings in fifth letter

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA



> Rolls of 2002 were scanned and translated using AI tools.. During this, serious errors occurred... These errors have resulted in large-scale data mismatches leading to many genuine voters being categorised as 'logical discrepancies'
>
> **MAMATA BANERJEE**
> West Bengal CM

Claiming that no proper acknowledgement or receipt is being issued for the documents submitted by electors during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday wrote yet another letter to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

In the letter, the Chief Minister said voters who were being issued hearing notices were already mapped to the 2002 electoral rolls, either by themselves or through their progeny and that issuing such notices in these cases was therefore unnecessary.

This is the fifth letter written by the Chief Minister to the CEC since the SIR process began in West Bengal. In her previous letter, dated January 10, Ms. Banerjee had alleged that eminent citizens, including Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, were being harassed during the SIR exercise.

In Monday's letter, the Chief Minister said the non-issuance of documentary acknowledgement during SIR hearings "deprives electors of proof of submission and places them at the mercy of internal record-keeping deficiencies".

The Trinamool Congress chairperson alleged that the SIR process was mechanical and driven by technicalities rather than a reasoned application of mind. "Such administrative lapses are being unfairly forced upon citizens, causing severe harassment and resulting in the denial of their constitutional rights. This defeats the very objective of the special intensive revision, which is intended to strengthen and purify the electoral rolls, not to exclude genuine and eligible voters," she said.

'Logical discrepancies'

After nearly 58 lakh names were struck off in the first phase of the SIR, about 1.36 crore voters have been issued notices under "logical discrepancies" in the second phase of the exercise.

The Chief Minister pointed out that many genuine voters were being wrongly categorised as having "logical discrepancies".

"In the absence of a digitised database from the last SIR, the manual electoral rolls of 2002 – including those published in vernacular scripts – were scanned and translated into English using AI tools. During this transliteration process, serious errors occurred in elector particulars such as name, age, sex, relationship and guardian's name. These errors have resulted in large-scale data mismatches, leading to many genuine voters being categorised as 'logical discrepancies'," the letter pointed out.

Meanwhile, a section of BLOs on Monday held protests outside the office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer, alleging that the EC had remained indifferent to the deaths of several BLOs during the SIR process. Members of the BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee claimed that BLOs across the State had been under "tremendous mental and physical pressure" ever since the revision exercise began, with the workload taking a serious toll on their health.

Ms. Banerjee, in her letter to the CEC, also referred to the deaths of BLOs as well as ordinary citizens due to SIR.

Ahead of Budget, Congress raises concern over fiscal federalism and inequality

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> It remains to be seen if the Budget boldly comes out of the comfort zone of statistical illusions, acknowledges these realities and challenges
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

Ahead of the Union Budget for 2026-27 and the upcoming Parliament session, the Congress on Monday flagged concerns over fiscal federalism, slowing investment, and rising inequality, warning that the economy faces structural challenges which cannot be addressed through what the party called "statistical illusions".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post on the social media platform X, said the Union Budget would inevitably reflect the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, which submitted its report on November 17.

The report, covering the period from 2026-27 to 2031-32, deals with the sharing of tax revenues between the Centre and the States and their subsequent distribution among the States.

Mr. Ramesh said the States were "deeply concerned" about the Centre's approach to fiscal devolution, particularly in the context of the 60:40 cost-sharing formula under laws that, he alleged, had "bulldozed away" the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The Congress communications chief said the States would be watching the Budget closely for signals on how the Centre intended to address these concerns.

Three areas of concern

Highlighting broader economic challenges, Mr. Ramesh identified three areas of particular concern.

Private corporate investment, he said, remained sluggish despite corporate tax cuts and healthy profit margins.

The Congress leader also pointed to a sharp decline in household savings, which, he said, was limiting the economy's investment capacity, even as wealth and consumption inequalities continued to widen.

"It remains to be seen whether the forthcoming Budget steps out of its comfort zone," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that acknowledging these realities and taking corrective measures were essential for sustaining higher growth rates.

The Congress leader argued that durable GDP growth, especially one capable of generating large-scale employment, would not be possible unless these underlying issues were addressed decisively in the Budget.

The Budget session will begin on January 28 and end on April 2. After the Budget is presented on February 1, Parliament will go into recess on February 13 and will reassemble on March 9.

INDIA bloc will hold up in 2029 despite recalibrations: Sule

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Supriya Sule. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Describing the recalibrations in the Maharashtra local body elections as "disruptions", Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP) leader Supriya Sule has said the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will hold up in the 2029 Lok Sabha election.

In a conversation with *The Hindu* against the backdrop of the municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra, she accused the BJP of becoming "Congress-*yukt*" (inclusive of Congress) and not "Congress-*mukt*" (free of).

Her party, which is in the Opposition in Maharashtra, has joined hands with her cousin Ajit Pawar's party, the NCP, a part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, to fight the elections in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

The third phase of elections will be held on January 15. These phases have been marked by unusual political combinations, including the Congress aligning with the BJP in Ambarnath and the BJP joining hands with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen in Akot. Terming them "chaos and disruption", Ms. Sule said she hoped that politics in Maharashtra would find "its level, and stability soon".

"The past two-and-a-half years have been challenging for both of us," she said, when asked if the two NCP factions would be joining hands hereafter. "They haven't been easy. It is not that you are happy if you are in power, or you are sad when you are in Opposition. That is a very narrow way of looking at it," she said.

"The issue of development brought the two parties together," Ms. Sule said, asserting that the local party workers had come up with the proposal. She agreed that parting ways with the Congress would have an impact on the poll prospects.

"I was trying very hard to stick together with the Congress. We tried to convince them [the Congress], saying, let's go with them [the Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray or UBT]. But you can't live in the past," Ms. Sule said.

On whether the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the INDIA bloc would stick together in 2029, Ms. Sule said, "This is national [about the INDIA bloc]. Why will it not? Look at the old times. Did the Congress and NCP ever fight any election together? And yet we were in government for so many years."

Chaos may happen if Kuki-Zo lawmakers join Manipur govt., people still emotional: council

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government is contemplating restoring the popular government in Manipur. FILE PHOTO

Amid efforts by the Centre to restore a popular government in Manipur, the chairman of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) says that if the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs indeed become a part of the State government, "chaos may happen" as the people are still "emotional and sentimental" in the aftermath of ethnic violence in the State since May 2023.

Henlianthang Thanglet, chairman of the KZC, a conglomerate of Kuki-Zo bodies, said in an interview with *The Hindu* that it was the MLAs who had first written to the Prime Minister for a separate administration. There are 10 Kuki-Zo MLAS in the 60-member Manipur Assembly, which includes seven Kuki-Zo legislators from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"It is not healthy at this point to have a popular government. It would be better if the President's Rule continued for another year," Mr. Thanglet said.

Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025. The Union government is contemplating restoring the popular government in Manipur for which the participation of Kuki-Zo MLAs is crucial.

Free movement of people from the Meitei community on National Highway no. 2, which passes through the hill district of Kangpokpi and is a key road that connects the valley districts to Nagaland and Assam, has remained affected since 2023. Similarly, the Kuki-Zo people are unable to access the Imphal airport.

"NH is not the property of Kuki-Zos, Meiteis or the Nagas. It has not been shut by us. If they want to travel, it should be with security. But there is a fear-psychosis [among Kuki-Zos] of going to Imphal and same is the case with the Meitei people passing through Kangpokpi," Mr. Thanglet said.

Asked if governance has been affected due to President's Rule, Mr. Thanglet said: "There is a lot of improvement in the security situation due to President's Rule. But let peace prevail first. If a popular government is there, it may reignite the violence," he said.

He said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups on September 4, 2025.

Cong. accuses BJP of fuelling hate after killing of Dalit woman in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday criticised the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh over the killing of a Dalit woman in Meerut, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of fostering hatred on the basis of caste and religion and selective use of power.

A Dalit woman was allegedly killed and her 20-year-old daughter abducted in a village in Meerut last Thursday. The police said a 22-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the crime. The incident led to tension in the area, following which additional police forces were deployed. The abducted daughter was later traced to Saharanpur on Saturday, officials said.

The Congress Scheduled Caste department chairman Rajendra Pal Gautam said that caste-based animosity and religion-based hostility were being encouraged under BJP rule. He accused the State administration of targeting Dalits, tribals and backward classes through what he described as the selective use of coercive measures.

Referring to the State government's practice of demolishing properties of alleged offenders, he said, "When a Dalit is oppressed in the State, the bulldozer does not move."

He criticised the government for not releasing data on atrocities on Dalits.

Cong. seeks probe into irregularities in PMKVY

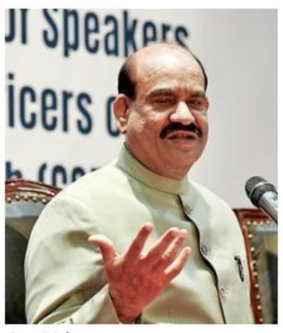
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded a time-bound and impartial investigation into alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

It cited findings of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) that point to large-scale data manipulation, financial mismanagement and weak oversight across multiple phases of the flagship skilling scheme.

Probe under way into Trinamool MP's 'use of e-cigarette' in Lok Sabha: Birla

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Om Birla

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said investigations were under way into a complaint alleging that a Trinamool Congress MP was "openly using" an e-cigarette inside the House during proceedings. Punishment would be meted out strictly in accordance with parliamentary rules and procedures, he said.

"No one has the right to undermine the dignity and sanctity of the Parliament," Mr. Birla told pressperson, adding that the rules do not permit smoking in the House. He was addressing a press conference ahead of the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPO), to be hosted by Parliament. The conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is expected to draw one of the largest gatherings in its history, Mr. Birla said.

BJP MP's complaint

The issue arose after Bharatiya Janata Party member Anurag Thakur submitted a complaint to the Speaker alleging that a Trinamool MP was "openly using" an e-cigarette during proceedings, despite such devices being banned across the country.

"No one has the right to undermine the sanctity of the House," Mr. Birla reiterated. The complaint was being examined and would subsequently be referred to the appropriate committee of the House, he said.

The CSPO conference will, among other issues, discuss the use of artificial intelligence in the functioning of legislatures.

Responding to queries, the Lok Sabha Speaker said Pakistan would not participate, while Bangladesh currently did not have a Speaker, with general elections scheduled for February in that country. He noted that at least 42 countries had confirmed participation.

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A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

DRDO carries out flight test of anti-tank guided missile

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed third-generation fire-and-forget man portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) with top-attack capability against a moving target in the K.K. Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra. The Defence Ministry said the flight test was conducted by the DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, and it marked a significant milestone towards the induction of the advanced anti-tank weapon system into the Indian Army. It incorporates cutting-edge indigenous technologies, including an imaging infrared (IIR) homing seeker.

Jagdeep Dhankhar admitted to AIIMS after fainting twice

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Monday after he fell unconscious twice on Saturday, officials said. Mr. Dhankhar, 74, underwent an MRI scan, officials said. The former Vice-President had "two bouts of unconsciousness" in the washroom around 3.30 a.m. on January 10, they said. Mr. Dhankhar had blacked out on multiple occasions in the past, including in the Rann of Kutch, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and the national capital while attending public events as the Vice-President, he said. He resigned as the Vice-President on July 21, citing health grounds. PTI

Modi, Merz launch annual kite festival in Ahmedabad

PM and German Chancellor get grand welcome with music and dance performances; the leaders visit exhibit reflecting Ahmedabad's architectural heritage, watch demonstrations on kite-making

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the International Kite Festival, 2026 on the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad, with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz attending as the chief guest. The two leaders launched the festival by flying kites.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi were present, along with members of the State Cabinet, MLAs, municipal corporation office-bearers, and senior State government officials.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Merz were welcomed with music and dance performances. Cultural presentations included Gujarati folk dance Beda Raas, Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam, and Mallakhamb.

The two leaders visited an exhibit reflecting the architectural heritage of Ahmedabad's *pols* and *havelis* (traditional houses and grand residences).

As part of a heritage walkway, a kite museum and a photo wall have been set up. The dignitaries were briefed on kites from different Indian States, made using various materials and techniques. They observed demonstrations by artisans on kite-making.

Bonhomie: Narendra Modi greets Friedrich Merz at the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad. MEAINDIA/PTI

135 kite-flyers from 50 countries and 65 from 13 Indian states are participating in the festival

The festival on the Sabarmati riverfront draws inspiration from kite-flying celebrations held across Gujarat annually ahead of *Uttarayan*, also known as *Makar Sankranti*, which falls on Wednesday this year.

It celebrates the sun's northward journey and the transition towards summer. The festival is being organised by Gujarat Tourism.

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, a musical ensemble by 108 artists from Gujarat and Rajasthan featuring instruments such as sitar, sarangi, violin, mandolin, harmonium, flute, dholak, tabla, and mridang will perform.

The performance included *Vande Mataram*, *Vaishnav Jan*, and German compositions. Folk singer Kinjal Dave will perform and illuminated kites will light up the night sky.

This year, the festival boasts 135 international kite-flyers representing 50 countries and 65 kite-flyers from 13 Indian States. In addition, 871 kite-flyers from 16 districts of Gujarat are participating.

The countries are Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the U.K., the United States, Vietnam, Slovenia, Bahrain, Nepal, Turkey, and Jordan.

To introduce visitors to Gujarati cuisine and handicrafts, 25 handicraft stalls and 15 food stalls have been set up at the venue.

Screengrab from a video posted on Monday shows the ISRO's PSLV-C62 carrying the EOS-N1 satellite lifts off from Sriharikota. PTI

What do two PSLV mission failures in a row mean for ISRO?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

On May 18, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) suffered a rare failure with its PSLV-C61 mission. The PSLV rocket has long been considered the agency's "workhorse" due to its history of reliable launches. However, on January 12, the PSLV-C62 mission also failed. Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that the rocket's third stage (PS3) experienced an anomaly, marking two consecutive failures for the vehicle.

To understand the recent failure, it's necessary to examine the C61 mission, whose primary payload was the EOS-09 satellite.

While the first two stages performed correctly, telemetry data showed a sudden, unexpected drop in chamber pressure within the third stage motor around 203 seconds into the flight. Because the PS3 is a solid-fuel motor, a pressure drop of this nature may indicate a serious structural failure, such as a casing breach or a nozzle blowout. Without the necessary pressure, the engine would not have been able to generate enough thrust.

Data withheld

Following the C61 incident, a Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) investigated the root cause. However, the FAC's report submitted to the Prime Minister's Office has not been released to the public.

The reasons are not clear. One possibility is to protect sensitive information about the payload; this said, it is also possible to release a technical failure report regarding the rocket while redacting sensitive information about any satellites.

Commercial protection is another possibility: ISRO is aggressively pushing the PSLV as a commercial product through NewSpace India, Ltd (NSIL). The PS3 motor is a technologically mature component that should not fail. If the failure was caused by simple negligence or a manufacturing defect, admitting this publicly could damage the rocket's reputation and increase the cost of insuring its launches. Keeping the report classified may be a way to avoid admitting whether the issue was one bad batch of materials or a deeper lapse in quality assurance.

Reason for failure

Either way, the overall lack of transparency sets the context for the outcome of the PSLV-C62 mission. Once the third stage anomaly became clear, Mr. Narayanan stated that the mission failed due to a "roll rate disturbance", meaning the rocket began spinning uncontrollably. The PS3 stage lacks its own roll control thrusters and instead banks on the stage above it, the fourth stage, to remain stable.

If the PS3 motor suffered a leak and vented gas from the side of the nozzle, it could create a twisting force strong enough to overpower the fourth stage stabilisers.

That the third stage motor was affected in both missions suggests the two modes of failure could be related. By keeping the PSLV-C61 investigation internal, the ISRO and the Department of Space avoided external scrutiny of the organisation's "return to flight" criterion.

If independent experts had been able to review the initial findings, they may have been able to verify the quality of the fixes ISRO implemented before the second launch.

But the agency launched again eight months later and faced the same result.

Centre steps in as two Nipah cases detected in Bengal

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Two healthcare workers suspected of being infected by Nipah virus in Barasat city in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal are undergoing treatment, officials said on Monday. The cases were detected at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalyani in Nadia district on Sunday night.

"Patients are under treatment and observation. Contact-tracing and treatment plans have already been made," Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty said. Both patients are employed at the hospital they are being treated in. Officials have not disclosed the name of the facility.

Ms. Chakraborty urged people to remain alert and not to panic. She appealed to people to avoid spreading misinformation and follow hygiene precautions. The State government has launched the helpline numbers 033 23330180; 9874 708858; and 9836 046212 for the public.

Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam was present at the briefing held by Ms. Chakraborty, but both declined to share details about the patients to protect their privacy.

State government officials said the two patients had travelled to Purba Bardhaman on personal work. Contact-tracing is, therefore, being done across North 24 Parganas, Purba Bardhaman, and Nadia districts. They said the patients had not travelled outside West Bengal in the recent past and that authorities are in touch with their families.

Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry said a national joint outbreak response team has been deployed to support the State government in containment and public health response measures.

"Given the serious nature of Nipah virus infection, which is a zoonotic disease with high mortality and potential for rapid spread, the situation is being handled with utmost priority," a senior Health Ministry official said. The official added that the Ministry immediately contacted the West Bengal government upon receiving the information to review the situation and ensure swift and coordinated action.

Officials have asked the public not to panic. They have said the patients have not travelled outside West Bengal. FILE PHOTO

Centre promises help

Central guidelines on the disease have been shared with the State Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) at the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, has been activated to coordinate the national response.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda has written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee promising full support from the Centre. "He also spoke to the Chief Minister over telephone and reiterated the Centre's commitment to extend all necessary assistance to the State in managing the situation," an official source said.

The Centre said it is providing comprehensive technical, logistical and operational support, including laboratory services, enhanced surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control measures, and expert guidance. The State has been advised to ensure close coordination with the deployed teams and to carry out meticulous contact-tracing and containment measures.

Ms. Banerjee visited the hospital late on Sunday night, sources said.

Nipah virus is a bat-borne disease. However, Subarna Goswami, a senior public health specialist with expertise in epidemiology, said it can also spread from pigs in certain cases. He also added that the incubation period was between four and 14 days, so all primary and secondary contacts of patients must be traced.

Dr. Goswami said the State must publish a route map of the two patients to help in tracing the people who may have come into contact with the two patients.

"Sometimes bats sit on date palm trees which produce date sap that is consumed by people across West Bengal during winter. This can be a source of infection. It is advisable not to have the raw sap, but boiled sap and processed jaggery are not a problem," Dr. Goswami told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Bindu Shajan Perappadan)

TH CROSSWORD + 14690

(set by Gridzilla)

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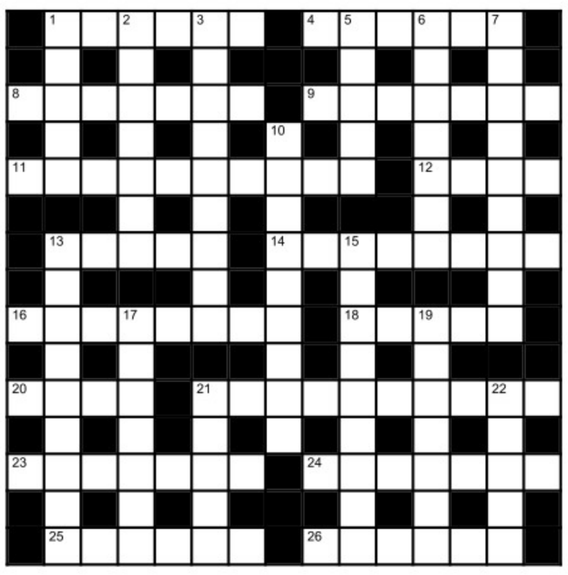
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 High in just one drink? (6)
4 In retrospect, some can't set a limit with it (6)
8 Put off by boring title song (7)
9 If nothing else, eat salt at sea (2,5)
11 After sex change, became more cheerful or panicky? (10)
12 Always strong at heart (4)
13 Fun subject describing how to get off a mailing list, briefly (5)
14 Got on board an old vessel to fix nets (8)
16 Agreed with ladies at base (3,1,4)
18 Teaching remains unchanged, written in English or Arabic (5)
20 Went back a long way (4)
21 How to make tension permanent? (3,2,5)
23 One is involved in stocks and accounts (7)
24 Noteworthy island capital - one situated in Asia, basically (7)
25 Mountain in Germany having one way to go over (6)
26 Mother dear set out to save daughter (6)

Down

1 Steep cut announced (5)
2 Fruit obtained from fields near ocean (7)
3 Charming Democrat's running and likely to be voted in (9)
5 After cycling, poet fed the kitty (5)
6 Reportedly, writer's most uninterested in contacts, etc (7)
7 A type of foodie challenge with eats you can bank on? (5,4)
10 Where can you possibly see Ali, as a matter of fact? (2,7)
13 Turned up to have lunch - That's natural (9)
15 Bane of one tribe at war with enemy essentially (4,5)
17 Endless craving for drug (7)
19 Spooner's point? Nothing is taboo! (3,4)
21 Man in market supplies perfume (5)
22 Currency of Iran collapsed, followed by agitations primarily (5)

SUDOKU

		7			4	9		
							5	
	1				2			7
	5				7			6
6		2	1		5	4		3
3			8				7	
2			5				9	
	8							
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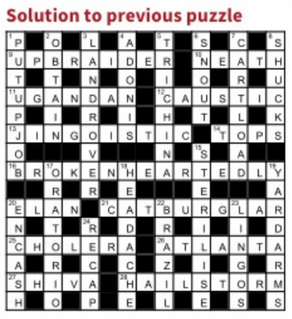
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	8	6	9	5	4	1	3
6	9	5	1	3	4	8	7	2
1	4	3	8	7	2	6	5	9
7	6	9	4	5	8	3	2	1
8	3	2	9	1	6	7	4	5
5	1	4	3	2	7	9	8	6
3	8	7	5	6	1	2	9	4
4	5	6	2	8	9	1	3	7
9	2	1	7	4	3	5	6	8

FAITH

Plea for *Tirutakka Selvam*

The Tamil month of Margazhi resonates worldwide to the singing or chanting of Tiruppavai, the work of the Vaishnavite saint Andal. Comprising 30 verses, Tiruppavai is inlaid with deeply mystical meaning. In the verse, *Oruththi Maganai Pirandhu*, Andal encompasses the complete story of Lord Krishna's manifestation and avatar, said Damal Perundevi. Andal traces Krishna's life, from being born to Devaki but raised by Yashodha, and growing up without Kamsa's knowledge, outsmarting Puthana, besting Kamsa, accepting Rukmini and being the charioteer for Arjuna to delivering the Bhagavad Gita. She then appeals to Krishna for *Tirutakka Selvam*. One may wonder at this prayer. *Selvam* (riches) refer to temporal wealth, while *takka Selvam* is a reference to Lakshmi *kadaksham*. What is the *Tirutakka Selvam* Andal is referring to?

Serving God and developing bhakti is the ultimate wealth. To attain this, one should not only have unshakable faith in Perumal; but this too comes about only by God's grace. How then can one obtain His grace? Only by showing steadfast devotion to Him can one gain *tirutakka Selvam*. When Krishna's friend Kusela is impoverished, his wife sends him to Krishna and packs some poha from a few neighbours as a gift for Krishna. The all-knowing one enthusiastically welcomes his friend. His heart filled with happiness due to the time spent with Krishna, Kusela leaves without seeking alms. However, when he reaches home, he finds not only his house but also those of his neighbours (who lent the poha) enriched by Krishna. Kusela prays to Krishna, saying, "Please grant me only one gift: that of unchanging Krishna bhakti."

INBRIEF

PNGRB, DVGW ink MoU to advance hydrogen integration

India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and its German counterpart DVGW inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to establish a cooperative framework for integrating hydrogen into the country's natural gas infrastructure. Among other things, the MoU would seek to facilitate knowledge sharing relating to safety methodologies. It would also seek to facilitate technical visits and anonymised data sharing.

African firm MITSUMI Distribution forays into India

African firm MITSUMI Distribution, an IT products distributor across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, has announced its foray into the Indian market with an investment plan of up to ₹1,000 crore in the next three years. The investment of ₹700-1,000 crore will be towards building infrastructure, strengthening inventory capabilities and extending local credit support, enabling sustainable and scalable growth in the Indian market, a top executive said.

Power Finance Corporation to raise up to ₹5,000 crore

Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a public sector listed firm that finances power infrastructure projects, said it is set to raise ₹5,000 crore from the debt capital market to refinance existing debt and further lending. PFC announced that the base issue will be ₹500 crore with an option to raise the remaining ₹4,500 crore later. Effective yield for NCD holders in various categories ranges from 6.85% to 7.30% per annum. Investors can apply for the debt issuance between January 16 and January 30.

TCS third-quarter net profit declines 14% to ₹10,720 crore

Labour code impact, legal claim provision drag down profit; board announces dividend of ₹57, company 'releases' 1,800 employees in Q3, lay-offs to continue in current quarter

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025, reported a 14% decline in net profit to ₹10,720 crore from ₹12,444 crore a year ago due to the impact of new labour codes, amounting to ₹2,128 crore, provision towards legal claim of ₹1,010 crore and expenses of ₹253 crore towards termination of employees during the quarter.

In the quarter the company laid off 1,800 employees and the 'release' would continue in the current quarter as well, the company told analysts over a conference call.

As on December 31, 2025, the global headcount was 5,82,163 and the attrition rate was 13.5% for 12 months, the company said. During the quarter the company's revenue grew 5% Year on Year (YoY) to ₹67,087 crore.

Numbers game: As on December 31, 2025, the global headcount was 5,82,163 and the attrition rate at 13.5% for 12 months. REUTERS

The board has declared a dividend of ₹57 including ₹46 per share as special dividend. The record date is January 17, 2026 and payment will me made on February 3, 2026.

Annualised AI services revenue at $1.8 billion; grew 17.3% quarter on quarter (QoQ) in constant currency. Operating margin at 25.2% remained stable sequentially. Net margin at 20% grew 40 bps QoQ.

The BFSI segment grew 1.6% YoY, but was impacted by seasonality. Consumer Business de-grew 2.7%, Life Sciences & Healthcare and Energy, Resources & Utilities grew 2.2% each, Manufacturing and Technology Services rose 1.7% each, Communication and Media was down 1.6%, while Regional Markets and others de-grew 19.4% YoY. Region wise, North America grew 1.3%, Latin America was up 1.4%, U.K. de-grew by 3.2%, Continental Europe was up 1.4%, Asia pacific grew 3.5%, India de-grew 34.3% and MEA grew 3.8% YoY.

'Five-pillar strategy'

"The growth momentum we witnessed in Q2 FY26 continued in Q3 FY26. We remain steadfast in our ambition to become the world's largest AI-led technology services company, guided by a comprehensive five-pillar strategy," said CEO and MD K. Krithivasan. He said that the momentum would continue in the rest part of the financial year.

Aarthi Subramanian, Executive Director, President and Chief Operating Officer, said, "We continued to see AI acceleration this quarter. We helped customers identify valuable AI opportunities and deployed solutions faster."

Life insurers' new business surges 39% to ₹42,151 crore in December

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life insurance companies in India reported a more than 39% increase in new business premium for December to ₹42,150.77 crore compared with ₹30,218.71 crore a year earlier.

For the nine months of the fiscal ended December, the new business premium rose 13% to ₹3,10,945.53 crore (₹2,75,086.92 crore), the latest numbers released by the Life Insurance Council showed.

Analysts attributed the robust growth in December to the GST rate rationalisation, effective September 22, as part of which the levy on individual life insurance policies was brought down from 18% to 0% making the life covers affordable.

New business premium of market leader, Life Insurance Corporation for December surged more than 57% to ₹21,293.88 crore (₹13,523.87 crore).

Private life insurers, numbering 26, posted a nearly 25% increase in the new business premium for December at ₹20,856.89 crore (₹16,694.85 crore).

MSIL board okays land acquisition for second plant in Gujarat

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Board of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) on Monday granted approval to acquire land for expansion of production capacity at Khoraj Industrial Estate in Sanand from Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.

This will be the company's second plant in Gujarat, the first being at Hansalpur. Currently the total existing capacity of the company is around 24 lakh units per annum in Gurugram, Manesar, Kharkhoda and Hansalpur, with a capability to produce 26 lakh units per annum.

This includes the units produced at erstwhile Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Ltd., which has been amalgamated with the company. Since the existing capacity is fully utilised, approval has come for the new plant. The proposed capacity addition is up to 10 lakh units per annum. It will be operational in phases, the company said.

The board has approved ₹4,960 crore towards cost of land acquisition, development and preparatory activities, the company said in a regulatory filing.

It will be financed through a combination of internal accruals and external borrowings. This factory will cater to both domestic and exports markets.

The new plant in Gujarat is aimed to start operation in FY29. The unit will have total investment of ₹35,000 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,878	0.36
US Dollar	90.17	0.01
Gold	1,44,600	2.04
Brent oil	63.42	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2171.60	17.90
Adani Ports	1443.50	7.60
Apollo Hosp	7268.50	12.00
Asian Paints	2896.40	70.90
Axis Bank	1274.20	2.20
Bajaj Auto	9491.00	-71.50
Bajaj Finserv	1998.90	6.50
Bajaj Finance	951.90	-7.70
Bharat Elec	417.70	-0.95
Bharti Airtel	2044.00	16.90
Cipla	1465.20	-0.50
Coal India	432.30	13.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1215.50	5.40
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7436.00	-71.00
Eternal Ltd.	285.25	0.90
Grasim Ind	2806.70	29.80
HCL Tech	1667.60	6.20
HDFC Bank	936.95	-2.05
HDFC Life	754.65	4.75
Hindalco	920.15	19.20
Hind Unilever	2406.20	33.60
ICICI Bank	1413.10	8.80
IntGlobeAvi	4850.00	6.00
Infosys	1595.90	-18.20
ITC	338.40	1.25
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	288.25	1.00
JSW Steel	1182.70	23.90
Kotak Bank	2133.30	6.50
L&T	4019.00	-6.20
M&M	3682.00	4.70
Maruti Suzuki	16582.00	81.00
Max Healthcare	1013.70	-3.50
NestleIndia	1312.40	13.30
NTPC	337.45	1.45
ONGC	235.71	1.62
PowerGrid Corp	258.55	0.55
Reliance Ind	1483.20	7.90
SBI Life	2098.00	28.00
State Bank	1015.15	14.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	972.80	-2.60
Sun Pharma	1736.00	6.10
TataConsumerProduct	1192.30	16.40
Tata Steel	183.24	4.84
TCS	3239.60	31.80
Tech Mahindra	1586.10	3.90
Titan	4231.60	29.80
Tata Motors PV	350.55	-3.60
Trent Ltd.	4056.40	83.50
UltraTech Cement	12098.00	161.00
Wipro	263.10	1.15

Alembic Pharma's cancer drug gets U.S. FDA nod

Alembic Pharmaceuticals has received tentative approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) for its generic of cancer drug Bosutinib Tablets, 400 mg.

HCL Tech's Q3 net slips 11%, board declares ₹12 interim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

HCL Tech third-quarter net profit slid 11% to ₹4,076 crore on one-time cost of implementation of new labour codes, which had an impact of ₹956 crore ($109 million at EBIT and ₹719 crore ($82 million) at net income level). Revenue from operations rose 13% to ₹33,872 crore.

HCL Tech CEO & MD C. Vijayakumar described Q3 as another standout quarter on all fronts, with revenue growing at 4.2% QoQ in constant currency with strong recovery of operating margin to 18.6%.

"The strong revenue momentum in the quarter enabled us to cross $15 billion in annualised revenue. We are well positioned to address evolving AI demand of our clients across industries and service lines" he told the media.

C. Vijayakumar

He added new bookings stood at a high of $3 billion (a 43% YoY rise); services revenue grew 1.8% QoQ in constant currency, driven by 19.9% QoQ growth in advanced AI services. Software revenue grew by 28.1% QoQ and 3.1% YoY in constant currency, driven by seasonality and data intelligence portfolio.

AI, key growth driver

Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra said AI continued to be a key growth driver across HCL's portfolio bringing in revenue of $146 million in the quarter, up from $100 million in the previous quarter.

CFO Shiv Wali said Q3 EBIT margins, excluding the one-time impact of New Labour Codes, came in at 18.6% (up 111 bps QoQ). We ended the quarter with highest-ever cash balance of ₹34,306 crore."

The board declared an interim dividend of ₹12 per equity share. HCL added 2,852 freshers in Q3 FY26 and last 12-month attrition stood at 12.4% (13.2%).

Solar industry's wish list for Union Budget

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

As India's solar energy capacity continues to accelerate, the domestic industry is seeking an enhanced production-linked incentive scheme, second instalment of PM-Kusum and viability gap funding to accelerate potential for energy storage, in the upcoming Union Budget.

Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, CEO at the industry body National Solar Energy Federation of India, told *The Hindu*, "The sector has grown big today, we are no more a sub-sector of the power sector. We are the second-largest generator in terms of installed capacity, therefore, our aspirations have increased in the same proportion."

PLI for ingots

Mr. Pulipaka sought the government instituting a production-linked incentive (PLI) or a similar scheme, for manufacturing ingots. They are among the raw materials used for making solar cells.

"These are all capital-intensive parts," he stated.

Separately, Prafulla Pathak, Solar Energy Society of India (SESI) also insisted on good financial allocation for the industry to help push overall indigenous production.

Coca-Cola bottler SLMG 2025 revenue past ₹8,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

SLMG Beverages, that operates eight plants across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for The Coca-Cola Company, said it ended the year 2025 with revenue exceeding ₹8,000 crore on the back of steady demand.

SLMG expects the momentum to continue through 2026 and is targeting to cross ₹10,000 crore.

The company has planned a large integrated manufacturing facility spread across 70 acre, which would cater to its future requirements.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT — e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for supply of (1) 8,400 Kgs of Almonds (2) 1,60,000 No's of denomination printed empty gunny bags (25 kgs weight bearing capacity) (3) 1,80,000 kgs of Goduma Ravva (4) 3000 tins (each tin 15 kgs net) of Gingelly oil Grade-1 (5) 1,25,00,000 No's of Biocompostable laddu covers (6) 3,60,000 Kgs of Cashew wholes through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.

For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.357) Date:12-01-2026 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o CE (Thermal Design), 604 Investment Building, Lal kothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur
E-TENDER NOTICE : TN-61 (RVU2526GLOB01998)
E-tenders are invited for Procurement of HT Cables for Various Power Plants of RVUN. Tender details are available on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17462 — RVUN/PR-4324 — Superintending Engineer (TD-III)

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
The APTRANSCO invites bids on e-procurement platform vide Tender Specification No.s PMM22-e-04/2026 for Procurement of LOT-1: 220KV 800A 50KA HDB Isolator Metallics without ES – 133 sets, LOT-2: 220KV 800A 50KA HDB Isolator Metallics with ES – 46 sets, LOT-3: 132KV 800A 40KA HDB Isolator Metallics without ES – 318 sets and LOT-4: 132KV 800A 40KA HDB Isolator Metallics with ES – 139 sets. Bidding documents are available at www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Date of availability of Bids: 13.01.2026 @ 5 p.m.
R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/20/26 — Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-72/3128/2025-26 — Date: 12.01.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible KPWD Class-III & above (Civil) Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience in the following works as per the schedule given below:
Name of the Works : 1) Improvements and maintenance of Roads & water supply pipe lines (Road No. 3, 5, 6, 7 & 9) at Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamarajanagar Taluk & District. (Reserve for SC).
2) Improvements and maintenance of Roads & water supply pipe lines (Road No. 1, 2, 9B & 10) at Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamarajanagar Taluk & District. (Reserve for SC).
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **23.01.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
DIPR/CP/4990/Zen/2025-26 — Sd/- Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY
(A body constituted under Rajasthan State Highways Act, 2014)
Corporate Office:Nirman Bhawan, Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur 302006
E-mail: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in
No. As Per RajKaj ref no. 19594696 — Date: 27.12.2025
NIT No. 48/2025-26
INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION
Bids for **Collection of User Fee on Mathania-Tiwari-Dechu Section of SH-61B connecting SH-61 to NH-125 and Jodhpur-Tiwari Section of SH-95 IN THE STATE OF RAJASTHAN** are invited from interested bidders upto 15:00 Hrs on 29.01.2026.
Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is **Rs. 6,78,97,525/-**
UBN No: PWD2526SLOB19607
Email: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in — Member (Technical), RSHA, Jaipur
Tel: +91-141-2223547 — DIPR/C/202/2026

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
संस्थान निर्माण विभाग, भोपाल बायपास रोड, भौरी, भोपाल–462 066
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal-462 066
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites online percentage rate/ online Item rate tenders from CPWD enlisted contractors of appropriate class and other eligible firms / contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work:

Sl.No.	NIT No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Period
1.	IWD/SE/NIT/2025-26/51 dated 08.01.2026	Supply of cleaning (consumable) materials for year 2026-2027 for the work providing services of cleaning, sweeping & up-keeping by providing manpower, material, T&P and disposal of garbage at IISER Bhopal	₹ 20,96,237	₹ 41,925	12 months
2.	IWD/SE/NIT/2025-26/52 dated 08.01.2026	Supply of Civil (Maintenance) materials at IISER Bhopal	₹ 15,12,488	₹ 30,250	30 days
3.	IWD/SE/NIT/2025-26/53 dated 08.01.2026	Supply of Electrical items for repair and maintenance of electrical installation at IISER Bhopal	₹ 55,81,385	₹ 1,11,628	12 months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website **www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** The press notice is also available in Institute website **www.iiserb.ac.in** and website **www.eprocure.gov.in**.

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
SCO 74-75, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR-17B CHANDIGARH
PBX: 0172-5197847, 5197846
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
PSWC invites online tenders through GeM Portal for creation of 5.85 LMT godown capacities at 14 locations in the State of Punjab for guaranteed lease of 10 years on Build, Own and Operate/Lease basis for storage requirements of FCI under two bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.
NIT (alongwith GeM Bid IDs) is available on Department's website i.e. https://pswc.in
PSWC reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason and PSWC will not be held liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.
Note: Any corrigendum(s)/Notification(s) to this Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be published Department's website & GeM Portal.
1004/12/2025-26/7006 — Managing Director, PSWC

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS INDIA LIMITED (TCIL)
(A Govt. Of India Enterprise)
TCIL Bhawan, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048
IS/ISO 9001:2008
9.78 Acres Industrial Land – Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai
A strategically located ~9.78 acre Industrial land parcel, along with existing industrial buildngs and infrastructure, is available within the CMDA Industrial complex, Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai. The opportunity is offered through acquisition of management control in a company that holds ownership and operational rights over the property.
The asset is part of an established corporate platform. The successful bidder through acquisition of TCIL's strategic stake, will obtain management control enabling authorized and exclusive use of the land parcel and associated buildings.
Key details
- **Participation open to Companies / LLPs / Individuals / Consortiums**
- **Process includes submission of bids as per notified terms**

Interested parties may obtain detailed RFP document through the authorised Transaction Advisor.
For further details, please contact:
CAPITAL FORTUNES PRIVATE LIMITED
Phone: 040 66038300; 98491 71150 Email: tan@capitalfortunes.com
Web: https://capitalfortunes.com/

MULTAN

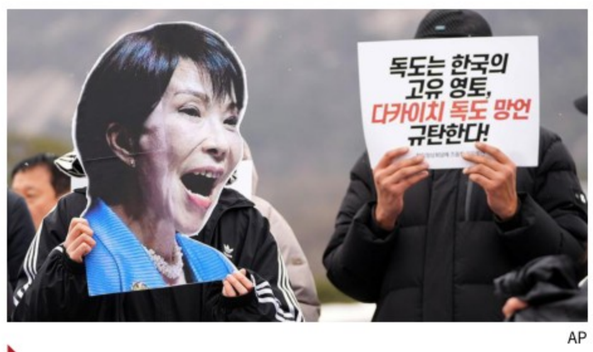
Targeted bomb attack kills seven police officers in northern Pakistan

AP

Seven Pakistani police officers were killed in a targeted bomb blast on Monday, police in the northwestern Tank district said. Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Tank is located, has battled a resurgence of militant violence carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. REUTERS

TOKYO

Japan PM to meet South Korea's leader amid tensions with Beijing

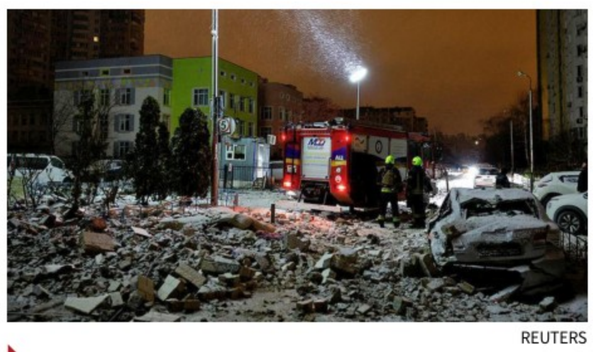


AP

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is set for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday, a week after meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as Seoul seeks to balance ties with both neighbours. The meeting is part of a swirl of diplomatic activity in a region with growing tensions. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Russia claims Oreshnik missile hit aviation factory in Ukraine's Lviv



REUTERS

Russia on Monday claimed to have hit an aviation repair plant in Ukraine's Lviv region last week with its Oreshnik ballistic missile, the first time either country has named the strike's alleged target. Moscow said it fired the Oreshnik in response to an alleged Ukraine's drone strike at President Vladimir Putin's residences. AFP

NUUK

China says Arctic operations legal, slams U.S. over Greenland remarks

AFP

China said on Monday that the U.S. should not use other countries as a "pretext" to pursue its interests and said that its activities in the Arctic comply with international law. The comment came as U.S. President Donald Trump said that he would like to make a deal to acquire Greenland, to prevent Russia or China from taking it over. AP

Iran says it's fighting 'four-front' war as govt. calls for nationwide rallies

Thousands of people throng the capital's revolution square; Ayatollah Khamenei says the turnout is a 'warning' to the United States; Tehran declares three days of national mourning for those killed; EU mulls imposing additional sanctions

Agence France Presse
DUBAI/PARIS

Iranian authorities on Monday sought to regain control of the streets with mass nationwide rallies in the wake of protests on a scale unprecedented in recent years, as alarm grew over a deadly crackdown.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised pro-government rallies called by authorities, saying the turnout was a "warning" to the United States.

"This was a warning to American politicians to stop their deceit and not rely on treacherous mercenaries," he said, according to Iranian state TV, after repeated threats from Washington to intervene militarily over the crackdown on protests, which activists fear has left at least hundreds dead.

Show of strength: Iranians attend a pro-government rally in Tehran, Iran on Monday. REUTERS

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran was ready for both war and talks.

The government called for rallies nationwide backing the Islamic republic on Monday. Thousands of people filled the capital's Enghelab (Revolution) Square brandishing the national flag as prayers were read for victims of what the government has termed "riots", state TV showed.

Addressing the crowds, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran is fighting a "four-front war", listing economic war, psychological war, "military war" with the United States and Israel and "today a war against terrorists", referring to the protests. He vowed the Iranian military would teach U.S. President Donald Trump "an unforgettable lesson" if Iran were attacked.

The European Union has voiced support for the protesters and on Monday said it was "looking into" imposing additional sanctions. Iran's shutdown of the internet has now lasted more than 84 hours, said monitor Netblocks.

The Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights said it confirmed the killing of at least 192 protesters but that the actual toll could be much higher. The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency said it had confirmed the deaths of 544 people.

Iranian state media has said dozens of security forces have been killed, with their funerals turning into large pro-government rallies. The government has declared three days of national mourning for those killed.

Myanmar made Rohingya lives a nightmare: Gambia tells court in genocide case

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

Myanmar deliberately targeted the Rohingya minority with "horrific violence" in a bid to destroy the community, Gambia's Justice Minister told the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday at the start of a genocide hearing.

"It is not about esoteric issues of international law. It is about real people, real stories and a real group of human beings. The Rohingya of Myanmar. They have been targeted for destruction," Dawda Jallow told ICJ judges.

The Gambia brought the case accusing Myanmar of breaching the 1948 Genocide Convention during a crackdown in 2017.

Dawda Jallow

Myanmar has denied genocide.

"Myanmar has denied them their dream, in fact it turned their lives into a nightmare subjecting them to the most horrific violence and destruction one could imagine," according to Mr. Jallow.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled violence by the Myanmar army and Buddhist militias, escaping to neighbouring Bangladesh and bringing harrowing accounts of mass rape, arson and murder.

Paul Reichler, a lawyer representing The Gambia, laid out searing allegations from witnesses, including gang rapes, sexual mutilation, and infants being burned alive.

The United States officially declared that the violence amounted to genocide in 2022, three years after a UN team said Myanmar harboured "genocidal intent" towards the Rohingya.

Today, 1.17 million Rohingya live in camps spread over 8,000 acres in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

Trump says Venezuela ties 'working out well', considers meeting with interim leader

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration was working well with Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez and that he would be open to meeting with her.

"Venezuela is really working out well. We're working along really well with the leadership," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday.

Asked if he planned to meet with Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Trump said: "At some point I'll be."

Venezuela's government said on Monday that 116 prisoners have been released "in the past few hours," according to a statement from the Penitentiary Services Ministry,

Over 100 political prisoners released so far, says Venezuela's government

though rights groups reported a lower figure. They had been jailed under President Nicolas Maduro, who was seized by U.S. forces in a raid on Caracas last week.

The government statement follows three days of reports from rights organizations about delays in the releases, which the Foro Penal group said on Monday had reached only 41. Rights groups estimate there are 800 to 1,200 political prisoners currently being held in Venezuela.

Those freed had been "deprived of their liberty for acts associated with disrupting the constitutional order and undermining the stability of the nation," the Ministry said.

Machado meets Pope

Venezuela's opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Corina Machado, who is expected to meet with Mr. Trump this week, has been one of the main voices calling for the release of prisoners that include some of her close allies.

Ms. Machado was in the Vatican on Monday, where she met Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo had said he was following the developments in Venezuela with "deep concern," and urged the protection of human and civil rights.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Pro-military party 'claims' Suu Kyi's seat in Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Myanmar's main pro-military party on Monday claimed victory in the parliamentary seat of sidelined democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi in elections being derided as a ploy to prolong junta rule.

An official from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) said they "won in Kawhmu" – Ms. Suu Kyi's former seat in Yangon region.

"We won 15 lower house seats out of 16 places," they added, after several constituencies voted in the election's second stage on Sunday.

The junta says the month-long vote which has its final phase scheduled for January 25 will return power to the people.

Hamnet and *One Battle After Another* reign supreme at 83rd Golden Globes

Associated Press

Paul Thomas Anderson's ragtag revolutionary saga *One Battle After Another* took top honours at Sunday's 83rd Golden Globes in the comedy category, while Chloe Zhao's Shakespeare drama *Hamnet* pulled off an upset over *Sinners* to win best film, drama. *Hamnet* star Jessie Buckley won best female actor.

One Battle After Another won best film, comedy, supporting female actor for Teyana Taylor, best director and best screenplay for Mr. Anderson

Sara Murphy, Teyana Taylor, Paul Thomas Anderson and Chase Infiniti pose with the award for *One Battle After Another*. REUTERS

Sinners won for best score and cinematic and box-office achievement .

Timothee Chalamet won his first Golden Globe for *Marty Supreme*.

The Globes held in California began with a pointedly political opening from host Nikki Glaser.

"Yes, the Golden Globes, without a doubt the most important thing happening in the world right now," she said.

Winners included Rose Byrne for best female actor in a comedy or musical in *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*, and Wagner Moura, the Brazilian star of *The Secret Agent*, for best male actor in a drama. Kleber Mendonça Filho's period political thriller also won best international film. Supporting actor front-runner Stellan Skarsgard won for the Norwegian family drama *Sentimental Value*. It was the first major Hollywood movie award for the 74-year-old veteran actor.

WAIT AND WATCH

BCCI contemplates hosting two WPL matches behind closed doors

FILE PHOTO: YOGESH MHATRE

The BCCI could be forced to host two fixtures of the WPL, on Jan. 14 and 15, behind closed doors at Navi Mumbai as the police will not be able to provide adequate security due to the municipal corporation elections. "We may have to host those two matches without any crowd," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told *The Hindu*.

HONOURS EVEN

Sri Lanka ends 14-year long wait, beats Pakistan in a T20I at home

AFP

Sri Lanka ended a 14-year drought by beating Pakistan in a T20I at home to draw their three-match series 1-1. The host won the rain-hit final match by 14 runs on Sunday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 160/6 in 12 overs (Kusal Mendis 30, Shanaka 34, Wasim 3/54) bt Pakistan 146 for eight in 12 overs (Agha 45, Hasaranga 4/35).

OUT & IN

Real parts ways with Alonso, Arbeloa becomes new coach

REUTERS

Real Madrid said on Monday that coach Xabi Alonso, *in pic.*, has left the Spanish giant by mutual consent, to be replaced by Alvaro Arbeloa. A day after the team lost the Spanish Super Cup final to Barcelona, the club parted ways with Alonso and immediately appointed Arbeloa, who was coaching the reserve side.

CALLING IT QUITS

Canadian trailblazer Raonic announces retirement at 35

FILE PHOTO

Former World No. 3 Milos Raonic announced his retirement on Monday, ending a career that earned him eight ATP titles. The big-serving 35-year-old, the first Canadian man to reach a Grand Slam singles final, has not competed in over a year. He has long been plagued by injuries and said it was time to call it quits.

Harris, Smriti make it a stroll in the park for Royal Challengers

The openers make short work of the modest target of 144 as the Bengaluru side notches up its second win on the trot; Deepti and Dottin's unbroken 93-run partnership for the sixth wicket props up Warriorz from a precarious 50 for five

Complementing each other: Harris was at her attacking best while Smriti played the second fiddle to perfection. EMMANUAL YOGINI

WPL-4

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

Small targets can often be dicey. But Grace Harris went on the rampage with a 40-ball-85 and Smriti Mandhana played the supporting role with an unbeaten 32-ball-47 as Royal Challengers Bengaluru pulled off a nine-wicket win against UP Warriorz without breaking a sweat.

As the D.Y. Patil Stadium remained half empty on Monday, RCB outsmarted the Warriorz in every department to bag its second victory in this edition of the Women's Premier League.

On a sluggish surface, RCB opted to bowl, and the decision paid off as it reduced the Warriorz to 50 for five. However, the seasoned Deepti Sharma and Deandra Dottin backed themselves, dug deep and guided the team to 143 for five.

The two experienced players forged an unbroken 93-run partnership for the sixth wicket to help the team put up a respectable total after the top-order fumbled. As Lauren Bell and Linsey Smith bowled stump-to-stump, openers Meg Lanning and Harleen Deol struggled to get going. Warriorz could score just 36 runs in the PowerPlay.

Today's match

MUMBAI INDIANS vs GUJARAT GIANTS

Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 7

MI 7 | GG 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

In what turned out to be a masterstroke by RCB, Shreyanka Patil was brought into the attack early on. Though she conceded 10 runs in the opening over, the young off-spinner eventually triggered Warriorz' slide, claiming the prized wickets of Lanning and Phoebe Litchfield in her following over.

Nadine de Klerk added to the opponents' woes, dismissing Kiran Navgire and Shweta Sehrawat off consecutive deliveries before Dottin and Deepti stepped up.

However, with Harris and Smriti adding 137 runs for the opening partnership, RCB cruised. With the dew setting in, the surface eased out. Harris dealt in fours and sixes while Smriti wasn't far behind at the other end. Against her former WPL franchise, Harris brought up her fifty off just 22 balls before falling to Shikha Pandey.

By then, RCB was just seven runs away from the target, and it wrapped things up with 47 balls to spare.

SCOREBOARD

UP WARRIORZ

Meg Lanning c Radha b Shreyanka 14 *(21b, 1x4)*, Harleen Deol c Smriti b Bell 11 *(14b, 2x4)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Smriti b Shreyanka 20 *(11b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Kiran Navgire c Smith b de Klerk 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 45 *(35b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Arundhati b de Klerk 0 *(1b)*, Deandra Dottin (not out) 40 *(37b, 3x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, w-5): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Harleen, 4.2 overs), 2-39 (Lanning, 7.1), 3-50 (Litchfield, 7.6), 4-50 (Kiran, 8.1), 5-50 (Shweta, 8.2).

RCB BOWLING

Bell 4-0-16-1, Smith 4-0-30-0, Shreyanka 4-0-50-2, Arundhati 4-0-18-0, de Klerk 4-0-28-2.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Grace Harris c Lanning b Shikha 85 *(40b, 10x4, 5x6)*, Smriti Mandhana (not out) 47 *(32b, 9x4)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 4 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-1, w-3): 9; Total (for one wkt. in 12.1 overs): 145.

FALL OF WICKET

1-137 (Harris, 11.4).

WARRIORZ BOWLING

Deepti 3.1-0-25-0, Kranti 2-0-18-0, Shikha 3-0-28-1, Dottin 1-0-32-0, Ecclestone 2-0-20-0, Asha Sobhana 1-0-17-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Harris.

RCB won by nine wickets with 47 deliveries to spare.

Harshit rapidly evolving into a handy all-rounder

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

Vital cameo: Harshit's 23-ball 29, at No. 7, helped India win the opening ODI. VIJAY SONEJI

It was a Sunday when Harshit Rana quietly ticked multiple boxes, reinforcing why the Indian team management views him as more than just a fast bowler.

Harshit's impact in India's victory in the opening ODI over New Zealand at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara went well beyond the wickets column. While his timely breakthroughs helped check a threatening New Zealand start, it was his calm, though brief, contribution with the bat in a tense chase that underlined the faith the think tank has begun to place in him as a lower-order all-round option.

"The team management wants to groom me as an all-rounder and it is my task to keep working on it," Harshit said after the match.

"I am working on it in the nets as well and it was a matter of confidence which KL (Rahul) *bhai* helped me with when I went in (to bat). I kept my focus and made the runs."

Harshit bowled with control during the middle overs and was instrumental in breaking New Zealand's opening stand, a phase where India desperately needed wickets. On a surface that offered little margin for error, his ability to unsettle batters brought the home team back into the contest after the visitor had threatened to push beyond a competitive total.

His role, however, did not end there. With India wobbling late in the chase following a dramatic collapse triggered by Kyle Jamieson, Harshit walked in at No. 7 ahead of the injured Washington Sundar with the target still in sight and pressure mounting.

"My team wants me to bat as an all-rounder and whatever time I can give to it in the nets, I focus on that," the 24-year-old said. "I believe I can score 30-40 runs for the team lower down the order whenever needed, and that's what the team management believes as well."

Though his stay was short, Harshit upped the ante, tonking 29 runs off 23 balls. His willingness to take responsibility allowed Rahul to settle down and play the finisher's role.

Harshit admitted the mood in the middle changed swiftly after Virat Kohli's dismissal. "Till Virat *bhai* was there it felt that the match would end early, maybe with five or six overs to spare," he said. "But a game of cricket can change anytime and you cannot predict it."

From his rapid progression on the field in the last six months, one can see Harshit making a compelling case for his growing value in India's ODI set-up with an eye on the 2027 World Cup.

Badoni replaces injured Washington

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the remainder of the ODI series against New Zealand after suffering a side strain during the opening match in Vadodara on Sunday. Ayosh Badoni has received a maiden India call-up as his replacement.

According to a BCCI statement, Washington "reported an acute onset discomfort in his left lower rib area while bowling" on Sunday. *The Hindu* understands that the all-rounder travelled to Mumbai on Monday to seek further medical advice and is expected to take around a fortnight to recover.

It is understood that the selectors, in consultation with the team management, decided not to risk Axar Patel, the T20I vice-captain, ahead of the World Cup. Besides, the team management is inclined towards including Nitish Kumar in the XI for the remaining two ODIs.

Washington is unlikely to be fit for the early part of the five-match T20I series against the Kiwis starting on January 21.

Plenty to rejoice: Domene, right, did the star turn for Pipers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pipers posts first win; HIL GC climbs to top

HIL – MEN

Sports Bureau

SG Pipers secured its first win in the Men's Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26, prevailing over Hyderabad Toofans 2-1 in Ranchi on Monday.

Tomas Domene bagged a brace for the winner. For Toofans, Amandeep Lakra got on the scoresheet.

Russell scores hat-trick

Kane Russell scored a hat-trick as HIL GC put an end to Tamil Nadu Dragons' unbeaten run with a 4-2 win in the second game. The victory also took HIL GC to the top of the table.

Pipers dominated the opening minutes against Toofans. It earned a succession of penalty corners before Domene converted one in the eighth minute.

Pipers doubles the lead after some exceptional work from Roman Duvekot set up Domene at the stroke of half-time.

Amandeep pulled one back with his drag-flick in the 41st. But Pipers was resolute in defence and held on.

The results: SG Pipers 2 (Domene 8 & 29) bt Hyderabad Toofans 1 (Amandeep 41); HIL GC 4 (Russell 14, 33 & 47, Ward 23) bt Tamil Nadu Dragons 2 (Govers 32, Uttam 56).

Sportstar ACES Awards 2026 invites nominations

Sports Bureau

The *Sportstar* ACES Awards 2026, presented by *The Hindu* Group, invites nominations for the coveted "Best PSU / Educational Institutions / Corporate for Promotion of Sport" honour.

Public sector undertakings, leading corporates, and educational institutions are encouraged to showcase their achievements for the award.

The *Sportstar* ACES Awards, launched in 2019, have over the years recognised and honoured individuals and institutions who have championed the cause of sports with innovative programmes, investments, and unwavering support.

Eligible contenders can submit their entries and success stories on *Sportstar*'s official awards portal by scanning the QR code. **Deadline:** Jan. 17.

Another chance for Indian shuttlers to script a fairytale at home

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Top Indian shuttlers, organisers and fans would all be hoping to end the long drought for a home champion when the Yonex-Sunrise India Open Super 750 begins here on Tuesday.

The marquee $950,000 event in the Indian badminton calendar has not had an Indian champion since 2022 as the likes of P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen lead the host's challenge, looking to convert their recent good run into results.

But it would not be easy with Lakshya, who finished 2025 with the Australian Open title, drawn against compatriot and former World junior championships bronze medallist Ayush Shetty in the opening round and Sindhu playing Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen, to whom she lost both her encounters in 2025.

Carrying the hopes: Chirag, Satwiksairaj, Sindhu, Prannoy and Ayush would strive to bring cheer to the local fans. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The two are also the last Indian winners of the tournament – Lakshya in 2022 and Sindhu in 2017 – along with the duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, also in 2022.

While both Ayush and Lakshya were ousted in the second round at the Malaysia Open last week, Sindhu reached the semifinals and Sat-Chi made it to the quarterfinals. World No. 1 An Se Young, meanwhile will start off against Nozomi Okuhara

The duo was also the most successful Indian on the tour in 2025 despite persistent injury struggles, winning bronze at the World Championships and qualifying for the knockout stage of the World Tour Finals. The World No. 3 would want to set the record straight here, starting with the American pair of Zhi Yi Chen and Presley Smith.

Shi pulls out

H.S. Prannoy, who made it to the main draw after Anders Antonsen withdrew, will be up against Hong Kong's Cheuk Yiu Lee, while K. Srikanth will take on compatriot Tharun Mannepalli who made the grade after the top seed and World No. 1 Shi Yu Qi of China pulled out late on Monday because of a back injury. In the women's section, Tanvi Sharma advanced from the reserves after Chen Yu Fei also withdraw due to injury.

The tournament has also moved to the much larger Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from the smaller K.D. Jadhav Hall and will be a test event for the World Championships in August.

INBRIEF

Anupama claims her second National billiards crown

IBSF World snooker champion Anupama Ramachandran avenged her National snooker final loss by defeating Amee Kamani 197-112 to win the women's National billiards title for the second time at Bahadurgarh (Haryana) on Monday. In the bronze medal playoff, Shruthi overcame Umadevi.

The results: Final: Anupama Ramachandran (TN) bt Amee Kamani (MP) 197-112.
Third-place playoff: L. Shruthi (TN) bt R. Umadevi (Kar) 152-140. **Semifinals:** Anupama bt Umadevi 134-101; Amee bt Shruthi 160-146.

All 14 ISL clubs confirm participation in writing

All the 14 Indian Super League clubs have written to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), formally confirming participation in the delayed 2025-26 season and clearing the decks for the start of the competition on February 14. The top-tier league will feature 91 matches on a home-and-away basis. It is learnt that the AIFF and the clubs are expected to have an online meeting on Tuesday and jointly discuss the formation of the Governing Council Board, as suggested by the AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey.

Yuki-Goransson eases into ASB Classic quarterfinals

Top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Andre Goransson beat wild cards Ajeet Rai and Jean-Julien Rojer 6-3, 6-2 to enter the quarterfinals of the ASB Classic in Auckland on Monday. The top seeds saved three of the four breakpoints they faced in the contest and broke their rivals four times. The ASB Classic is part of the build-up to the season's first Grand Slam, with players using the Auckland tournament to fine-tune their preparations ahead of the Australian Open.

Barca edges Real in a thriller, retains Spanish Super Cup

Barcelona retained the Spanish Super Cup with an entertaining 3-2 Clasico win over Real Madrid in Jeddah on Sunday. Raphinha struck twice for the Catalans with Robert Lewandowski also on target as they beat Xabi Alonso's team for a record-extending 16th triumph. Barcelona thrashed Madrid 5-2 in last season's final, but this was a far closer affair.

The result: Barcelona 3 (Raphinha 36, 73, Lewandowski 45+4) bt Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 45+2, Garcia 45+7).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kashvi's big century highlights Karnataka's win

Kashvi Kandikuppa scored 158 as Karnataka thrashed Manipur by 275 runs in the BCCI U-15 women's one day trophy in Kolkata. On January 16 in Puducherry, Karnataka will play the winner of the pre-quarterfinal match between Hyderabad and Maharashtra.

The scores: Karnataka 321/5 in 35 overs (Sheetal Santosh 52, Kashvi S. Shekar 31, Kashvi Kandikuppa 158) bt Manipur 46 in 23.3 overs (Patil Nynisha Reddy 5/11).

Stride has it easy against BTM

Stride FC beat BTM FC 3-0 in the BDFA A-division football league championship on Monday.

The results: Stride FC 3 (Ginneithang Gangte 6, 27, Yohan Thomas Jacob 50) bt BTM FC 0.

Sree Gajanana FC 1 (E. Devaraj 24) drew with AGORC FC 1 (Kushal Hindustani 30).

Technico FC 3 (Nathan Akash Powell 18, Sanasam Lenin Meitei 70, 84) bt Roots FC 2 (Umesh Bhandur 28, Thangkaihad Haokip 88).

LIVE TELECAST

Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
Badminton: Indian Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Padikkal, Karun power Karnataka into semifinals; Saurashtra sends U.P. packing

The two take their side to a comfortable win over Mumbai on a rain-affected day; Harvik's ton ends Uttar Pradesh's unbeaten run via VJD method

Stars of the show: Paddikal and Karun stitched an unbeaten partnership before rain played spoilsport while Harvik's century was the decisive factor for Saurashtra. K. MURALI KUMAR

HAZARE TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Classy knocks from Devdutt Padikkal (81 n.o.) and Karun Nair (74 n.o.) drove Karnataka to a 55-run victory (via VJD method) over Mumbai in its Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinal at the BCCI CoE (1) ground here on Monday.

The duo took Karnataka to a comfortable 187 for one in pursuit of 255. Play was called off due to bad light and drizzle, leading to Karnataka being declared the winner.

Under overcast conditions, the pitch offered zip and bounce, making run scoring difficult. Padikkal and Karun executed the chase efficiently in this tricky setting.

Padikkal, the highest run-scorer of the tournament, benefitted immensely from two dropped catches.

Batting on 24, the southpaw was put down by Omkar Tarmale, who barely got his hands on the ball running in from fine-leg. A short while later, Padikkal could barely believe his luck when Angkrish Raghuvanshi spilled a regulation chance at slip.

Karun returned to form after a brief slump. He felt the middle of the bat early, when a crunching backfoot drive got him off the mark in the third delivery.

A depleted Mumbai found it hard to keep up.

The likes of Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube were away on India duty, and the side took another major blow when form batter Sarfaraz Khan was ruled out due to an injury. Fast bowler Tushar Deshpande was another absentee, out for personal reasons.

Mumbai was in trouble after being asked to bat, with the four-pronged Karnataka seam attack making the most of the helpful conditions.

Vidyadhir Patil extracted just reward for sticking to the corridor of uncertainty, scalping three wickets.

From 60 for four, it was left to Shams Mulani (86, 91b, 8x4) to pull off a rescue act. Siddhesh Lad (38) provided support, while Sairaj Patil (33 n.o., 25b, 5x4, 1x6) swung his bat around in the death to give Mumbai a respectable score.

In another curtailed quarterfinal, Saurashtra rode on an unbeaten century from captain Harvik Desai to end Uttar Pradesh's winning streak at the BCCI CoE (2).

The match was evenly poised with Saurashtra on 238 for three, chasing 311. When the covers came on, Saurashtra was slightly ahead of the curve in the VJD calculations.

In the semifinal, Karnataka will face the winner of the Delhi-Vidarbha quarterfinal, which will be held here on Tuesday. Saurashtra takes on the winner of the Punjab versus Madhya Pradesh outing.

The scores: Quarterfinals:

Mumbai 254/8 in 50 overs (Shams Mulani 86) lost to Karnataka 187/1 in 33 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 81 n.o., Karun Nair 74 n.o.) *by 55 runs via VJD method.*

Uttar Pradesh 310/8 in 50 overs (Abhishek Goswami 88, Sameer Rizvi 88 n.o.) lost to Saurashtra 238/3 in 40.1 overs (Harvik Desai 100 n.o., Prerak Mankad 67, Chirag Jani 40 n.o.) *by 17 runs via VJD method.*

Meeting Lakshya in the opening round is itself a challenge: Ayush

INDIA OPEN SUPER 750

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Ayush Shetty, who was handed a tricky opening round draw against compatriot and senior pro Lakshya Sen, will be hoping to be third time lucky when he takes the court at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open Super 750 tournament here on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old, in his maiden appearance at the country's marquee event on the world tour, admitted it was not the ideal situation but hoped to be on the winning side. "Playing Lakshya in the opening round of the India Open itself is a challenge, he is probably one of the best in the world and we had a couple of great matches last year, I lost them both but hope to be on the winning side this time around," Ayush said on the eve of the competition.

Having trained alongside Viktor Axelsen in Dubai, Ayush was all praise for the Dane but insisted he was not looking to emulate the Olympic and former world champion.

Stern test: Ayush will be hoping to be third time lucky against Lakshya. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"I think we have a pretty similar game, we both like to attack. It was really special training with him and he gave a lot of inputs on how I can get better. There were a lot of learnings from him both on and off the court, how he manages himself and his discipline among others.

"He is my idol, someone I look up to but I think I would like to create my own path, there is no comparison. The main goal is to rise up the rankings through the year and hopefully be in the top-10," added the World No. 32.

Asked about the transition from juniors to seniors, Ayush said the most important thing was mindset. "It was really tough to transition and it is challenging being consistent all the time. But I think the most important thing for anyone is confidence in your game and the belief that you are good enough to compete with the best," he said.

Yuki in a good position to carry on India's doubles legacy: Klaasen

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

For more than two decades, doubles tennis in India has always had an active, thriving gold standard. Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi, Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna won a combined 16 doubles and 22 mixed doubles Majors, and were all ranked No. 1 in the world.

But next week's Australian Open will be the first Grand Slam tournament after the retirement of the last of the stalwarts, Bopanna, and it will be up to Yuki Bhambri to shoulder the nation's hopes.

And if the 33-year-old's 2025 is anything to go by - a first ATP 500 title in Dubai, a maiden run to a Slam semifinal at the US Open and a career-high ranking of 21 - he has warmed up rather well.

Raven Klaasen, Major finalist in doubles and a former World No. 7, who is currently a coach with the Doubles Dream of India project, felt Yuki was in a good position to carry on the legacy.

Klaasen. K. MURALI KUMAR

"It's perfectly poised for somebody to take over, but it's hard work," he said on the sidelines of the Dafa News Bengaluru Open. "While Yuki has been playing for a very long time, he's only really focused on doubles for a very short time [starting 2024].

"Bopanna, Mahesh, Leander... they spent extended periods playing doubles. But he [Yuki] started off as a very good tennis player. So I imagine him getting better."

The South African pointed to Yuki 's stirring semifinal run at Flushing Meadows - partnering New Zealand's Michael Venus - as a potential harbinger. Though Yuki will be playing with Swede Andre Goransson in Melbourne, the result in New York showed what he was capable of in the company of an able ally.

"Yuki brings consistency and the ability to play in big moments under pressure but power is perhaps not his biggest thing," Klaasen said. "In my perfect-case scenario, he would be the stable one and somebody else would be taking control of the power side.

"We saw what happened at the US Open. But that's just step one. To get to the top, you have to have multiple good results. Yuki's always been a great ball-striker. He's gotten better at the net and serve has improved too. So there's nothing really stopping him from being very good".

IOA 'formally reactivates' National Olympic Academy

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) launched the National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP) and 'formally reactivated' the National Olympic Academy (NOA) at its recent AGM in Ahmedabad to reflect its focus on athlete-centric development, Olympic education, and institutional capacity building.

The NOA in Ahmedabad, with P.T. Usha as its president and Gagan Narang as the director, is expected to be the cornerstone of this initiative as the central institution for Olympic education, learning, research, and dialogue in India.

It will also work closely and directly with athletes, supporting their educational needs, personal development, leadership skills.

Bayern pulls 11 points clear in Bundesliga

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MUNICH

Michael Olise scored twice and set a Bundesliga assist record as Bayern Munich crushed Wolfsburg 8-1 on Sunday to go 11 points clear at the top of the table.

The results:

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 8 (Fischer 5-og, Diaz 30, Olise 50, 76, Jenz 53-og, Guerreiro 68, Kane 69, Goretzka 88) bt Wolfsburg 1 (Pejcinovic 13); Borussia Moenchengladbach 4 (Scally 8, Diks 20-pen, Tabakovic 36, 61) bt Augsburg 0.

Hit-man: Olise fires in his second and Bayern's seventh. REUTERS

Serie A: Fiorentina 1 (Comuzzo 66) drew with AC Milan 1 (Nkunku 90).
Inter Milan 2 (Dimarco 10, Calhanoglu 73-pen) drew with Napoli 2 (McTominay 26, 81); Lecce 1 (Stulic 1) lost to Parma 2 (Gabriel 64-og, Pellegrino 72); Verona 0 lost to Lazio 1 (Nelsson 79-og).

LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 2 (De Frutos 4, Palazon 42-pen) bt Mallorca 1 (Muriqi 30).
Levante 1 (Losada 55) drew with Espanyol 1 (Romero 53).